

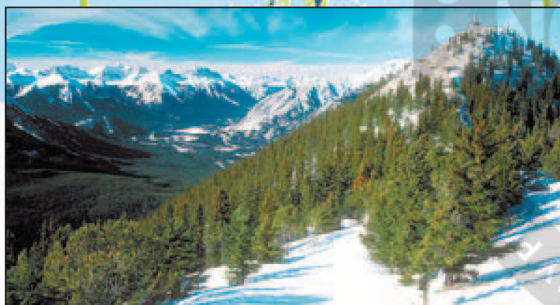


Edited by  
**SAMM TAYLOR**

# from here

hanafiraziman700@gmail.com

**CANADA FLY:**  
Banff has  
endless runs  
for all abilities  
and no  
queueing!



## NORTH AMERICA

IT might be expensive but a ski trip to North America guarantees good snow, top-class facilities and excellent hotels.

And unlike Europe, the mountains are clear, you don't have to queue for a lift and the roads are more than a foot wide.

Plus you get to see everything from coyotes to elk roaming wild in the conifers.

The only downside is the distance from home but even that can be reduced if you fly to one of the resorts on the eastern seaboard.

Good skiing can be found all the way from Newfoundland down to North Carolina.

The US alone boasts ski resorts in 25 states, including Jackson Hole, Aspen and Lake Tahoe, and they match anything Europe has to offer.

### Warm

Canada is even better, with skiing found in nine provinces the length of the country.

And regardless of whether you head to California, British Columbia or Pennsylvania, you're guaranteed a good time and a warm welcome.

### Sample prices:

#### CANADA

Enjoy a seven-night, room-only stay at the Brewster Mountain Lodge Banff, for £695 including flights and transfers. For details call 0208 7768709 or go to [www.frontier-ski.co.uk](http://www.frontier-ski.co.uk)

#### USA

Virgin Holidays has seven nights' B&B at the three-star Woodwards Resort, New Hampshire, for £529 including flights and transfers. Call 0871 2220050 or go to [www.virginholidays.co.uk/ski](http://www.virginholidays.co.uk/ski)

## NORTH EUROPE

THE German ski season only runs from mid-January to mid-March, so it's often forgotten as a ski destination.

But the Bavarian Forest, Black Forest or Harz Mountains are all full of great skiing.

Thankfully, a lack of snow isn't something that affects Norway and Sweden. In fact at Riksgransen in the north of Sweden it's possible to ski until June. There's also a range of top-class resorts the length of the border between the two countries, such as Åre and Lillehammer.

Being Scandinavia you can

find every other winter sport on your doorstep and the unusual sight of locals camping in the snow.

And with a focus on cross-country skiing and fun activities like ski jumping, you can get a wide variety of snow sports.

Plus this part of the world is unique as you get to ski at night and watch the spectacular Northern Lights.

Venture into Lapland and you may even get to ski with Rudolph and Santa.

### SAMPLE PRICES

#### Germany

Moswins has seven nights B&B at Garmisch-Partenkirchen for £549, including flights and transfers. Call 08700 625040 or go to [www.moswin.com](http://www.moswin.com)

#### Sweden & Norway

Neilson has a range of self-catering apartments in Scandinavia. A week in Åre, Sweden, costs £339, and a week in Jello, Norway, costs £239. This includes all flights and transfers. For details call 0870 333 3356 or go to [www.neilson.co.uk](http://www.neilson.co.uk)

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### JUMBO CORD

Unbeatable price for this durable cord carpet.

**CARPET A**  
4m x 4m  
ROOM FOR  
**UNDER**  
**£32**

**STAR BUY!**

**£1.99**  
SQ  
MTR

#### SPECTRUM

Four great colours, one great price – this one's flying out of the stores!

**£3.99**  
SQ.  
MTR.

#### SWIRL

Great looking print carpet. Felt backed and available in 4 colours.

**£3.99**  
SQ.  
MTR.

#### DESERT SANDS

Beautiful, Stainproof Berber in small square design on sound-free backing.

**£4.99**  
SQ.  
MTR.

#### DREAMLAND

Sumptuous Saxony at an amazing price. In 4 colours.

**£4.99**  
SQ.  
MTR.

#### DUBLIN TWIST

Superb value Stainproof Twist carpet. Available in 8 beautiful colours.

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SQ.  
MTR.

#### IBIZA BERBER

Hardwearing carpet at a great price. Available in 5 natural colours.

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#### DUBAI BERBER

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A stain resistant Twist available in 8 beautiful colours.

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# Just Jane



**JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY ... AND EVERY DAY**

## HE WANTS ME DEAD

**Hubby insists it's a joke**

**MY husband pushed me down the cellar stairs three years ago. I'd just found out about his latest affair and had ordered him to leave.**

He went crazy when I revealed I knew his lover's name, where she lived and where they had sex.

He dragged me across the kitchen floor, threw open the cellar door and shoved me forwards, screaming: "Die, you bitch!" I managed to grab the handrail on the way down and saved myself. But he still locked the door behind me and I spent four hours in the cold.

Eventually, our neighbour heard my cries and released me. I am in no doubt

that at that point my husband wanted me dead. A week later I started divorce proceedings and he finally moved out. But then he had a terrible accident at work and called for me from his hospital bed.

He said that his accident had put everything into perspective and he wanted to come home. He looked so broken and vulnerable that I agreed.

Three weeks later he was back and I gave him round-the-clock care. He was so grateful and we fell in love again.

At first my family were cool towards him. They weren't convinced he could

change for the better. But now my sister has heard rumours that he's cheating again. Apparently, he got drunk in our local and was heard shouting: "Anyone know a cheap way to get rid of a wife?"

Now she and my parents have ganged up against him. They say it's him or them. If I choose him, I'll never see them again.

My husband insists it was only a joke and says my family have always had it in for him. What should I do?

**JANE SAYS:** You've got to decide whether you believe your husband has

really changed. Has he genuinely turned over a new leaf and left his womanising and abusive behaviour behind?

It would be fantastic if he has. But would such a reformed character really joke about having his wife "taken out" Mafia-style?

As for the rumours about new affairs, you need to remember that there is rarely smoke without fire.

Before you sacrifice your family, I suggest that you have a long, hard think about your husband.

Why not do a bit of detective work and find out what he's really up to these days?

The reality is that he's already tried to kill you once – and could try again.

## WORN OUT BY UNDIES FRENZY

I WOULD love to be able to wear sexy undies.

The shops are full of beautiful lacy bras, knickers and basques in fabulous colours.

I'm slim enough to know that they'd give me a massive confidence boost.

But the problem is my boyfriend.

He's so randy that I daren't risk wearing anything provocative.

He's constantly on heat and even the slightest heel or scrap of silk turns him on.

If he were to catch me in anything raunchy, he'd consider it an open invitation for sex. I'd be "asking for it".

This is so exhausting that I have to wear frumpy passion-killers to keep him at bay.

The one time I wore a pair of suspenders we had a marathon six-hour sex session!

Don't get me wrong, I do love sex too. But I can't stand the fact that I'm not allowed to be me and wear what I want.

**JANE SAYS:** It's clear your boyfriend has very little respect for you.

Leaping on you like a horny, buck rabbit every five minutes is insulting and demeaning.

I get the impression he treats you like a piece of meat. Talk to him about setting a few guidelines.

But if you can't reason with him or reach a compromise regarding how often you have sex, then you need to think about moving on.

You're entitled to feel sexy and feminine without being mauled.

Women don't only wear nice underwear to attract men. We wear it because it makes us feel good.

As TV's Tranny and Susannah are always telling us, clothes hang better if we're wearing decent undergarments.

## LUST FOR OFFICE AFFAIRS

FRIENDS warned me that it wasn't a good idea to have an affair with my boss – but I was so infatuated with him I couldn't help myself.

One afternoon he invited me into his office and we had sex across his desk.

Our affair was drink-fuelled and wild. We took so many chances and his secretary started spreading rumours that I was a tart.

Finally, his wife found out. I was given a pay-off and "made redundant".

Now I'm in a new job and I can feel history repeating itself. One of the managers is really keen on me and I'm a sucker for a bit of attention.

**JANE SAYS:** Walk away from this guy and don't look back. My feeling is that you had a lucky escape last time round.

If you'd been caught in the act you could have been done for gross misconduct and there would have been no pay-off.

Concentrate on your work – and finding a guy who is not going to cause you trouble.

## SHE MUST GO

Day Six

**1 BACK IN THE BEDROOM**

Tiff! What on earth do you think you're doing?

Keep your hair on! Just saying goodnight

**2**

I didn't do anything wrong. Night, Jason!

Night, Tiff

She's such a minx

**3**

That sister of yours...

I wouldn't put anything past her

**4**

Forget her. Come here...

With pleasure

**CONCLUDES TOMORROW IN THE SUPER**

**DAILY STAR SUNDAY**



## JANE'S ADVICE LINES

(Calls cost 60p per minute from a BT landline)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>0905 062 2180</b><br>Coping With A Break-up      | <b>0905 062 2184</b><br>The Female Orgasm              | <b>0905 062 2188</b><br>Having Sex After A Baby   |
| <b>0905 062 2181</b><br>Finding The Perfect Partner | <b>0905 062 2185</b><br>My Partner Is Having An Affair | <b>0905 062 2189</b><br>We Argue All The Time     |
| <b>0905 062 2182</b><br>My Sex Life Is Boring       | <b>0905 062 2186</b><br>I'm So Lonely                  | <b>0905 062 2190</b><br>Loving For The First Time |
| <b>0905 062 2183</b><br>Boost Your Confidence       | <b>0905 062 2187</b><br>Coping With Jealousy           | <b>0905 062 2191</b><br>Fantastic Sex             |

Write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN or e-mail jane.gorman@dailystar.co.uk

## GIRL'S EX IS SPONGER

OUR daughter's ex-partner is begging us to take him in. He's making a real nuisance of himself, ringing up and calling round up to five times a day.

We feel under extreme pressure to house him. He says he has no money and nowhere else to go. If we don't give him a room, he'll be on the streets for Christmas.

Our daughter now lives in Australia with their children and would go crazy if she knew that we were having anything to do with him.

But he keeps harping on about the fact that we are family and says, as committed

Christians, we should practise what we preach.

**JANE SAYS:** This man is not your responsibility. It doesn't matter how much he tries to bully or emotionally blackmail you, he has no right to move in.

He's a grown man and must make his own arrangements.

Suggest that he visits the Citizens' Advice Bureau or council and gets help. If he continues to make a nuisance of himself, don't hesitate in calling the police and reporting him.

**JUSTIN TOPER'S STARS ARE IN YOUR**









# It's the business

'Don't take the bull by the horns, take him by the tail. Then you can let go when you want to' – Josh Billings

## Movers & groovers

**SAINSBURY'S** is not joining **Tesco** and **Asda** in lobbying the Government to relax Sunday trading hours.

The breaking of supermarket ranks has been prompted by the company's assessment the extra cost of longer opening outweighs the benefits of increased sales.

**HUTCHISON Whampoa** billionaire Li Ka-shing certainly knows how to keep investment banks sweet.

He's employing seven – Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch, plus Banca IMI and Banca Caboto – to float his Italian 3G telecoms arm.

Hutchison Whampoa's UK 3G company is eyeing a 2006 flotation and **Hutchison Telecommunications International** hopes to list its fast-growing India business next year. There should be plenty more fat fees for bankers.

**AROUND 800 staff** from **Eaga Group** will feel a warm glow today as they gather to celebrate the company's 15th birthday.

Set up in a small office in Newcastle upon Tyne, it now employs 1,600 as far afield as India and Canada, and claims to have helped seven million people in the UK to improve their home heating and cut their fuel bills.

Among the highlights of the celebrations at the **Sage Music Centre**, Gateshead, will be a pre-recorded video message from Prime Minister Tony Blair.

THE DEALER

## HOT GOSSIP

**GLAZING products group** **Pentagon Protection** firmed 0.25p to 3.75p yesterday on hopes for a breakthrough in the US. It follows the appointment as non-executive director of **Haytham Eliza**, president of a US vehicles extended warranties firm.

## 'Missing' £365m is probed

AIM's largest cash shell **Langbar International** called in the police yesterday after it emerged that £365 million it thought it had in foreign banks was probably never there.

Langbar, formerly known as **Crown Corporation** and floated two years ago, had to suspend its shares last month and hire detective agency **Kroll** after rumours that the money, supposedly in company bank accounts in Brazil and the Netherlands, did not exist.

In a statement yesterday, new chief executive **Stuart Pearson** said: "Kroll has reported that it

appears likely that the company has been subject to a serious fraud."

He added: "Kroll has not been able to establish the existence of, nor verify the company's entitlement to, any of the relevant assets at any time in the company's history."

## FAIR SHARES

**CIGARETTE** firm shares were discarded yesterday amid fears that a profits warning might be on the way from **Dunhill** and **Lucky Strike Group BAT**. Its shares fell 3.6%.

**Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco** were also among blue chip casualties.

# Tesco slows

## BUT GIANT'S STILL AHEAD

by BILL MARTIN  
THE great Tesco juggernaut is slowing down at last.

Its total sales, excluding petrol, rose by 5.5% in the 14 weeks to November 19, easing back from 6.7% in the first half of the year.

But Britain's biggest grocer is still the envy of the retail sector with sales outstripping most rivals.

And electrical goods retailers such as **Comet** and **Dixons** will be alarmed to hear of Tesco's push into their product territory over the festive period.

Finance director **Andrew Higginson** said his supermarkets were expecting to sell 25,000 LCD TVs, 50,000 iPods, 70,000 digital cameras and 10,000 satellite navigation systems.

He added that non-food sales were "powering away", boosted by home entertainment products.

## Cautious

"You have to scrap for every pound in sales out there," said Higginson. "The great news is we are still taking market share and we are quietly confident about Christmas."

"We said at the half year that the consumer outlook was a bit more cautious and I think you've seen that."

Mr Higginson said the figures were up against an exceptional performance last year when underlying UK sales grew by 7.5% as **Tesco** benefited from **Morrisons'** and **Sainsbury's** woes.

Recent cold weather has boosted sales of soups, porridge, hot chocolate and custard. **Tesco** increased its share of the grocery market from 28.3% last year to 30.2%, according to **TNS** research.

MARRIAGE POTENTIAL: Laila Rouass, Ben Price and Zoe Luckier from Footballers' Wives are joining Supernanny



## WIVES GO FOR NANNY

**FOOTBALLERS' Wives** and **Supernanny** are getting together in a £25 million deal.

**Shed Productions**, the company which makes the football soap opera, has bought **Ricochet**, which is home to the problem-solving nanny and **Channel 4's**

**Risking It All**. **Ricochet's** Nick Powell and Nick Southgate will pocket most of the cash and then join the board of **Shed** and share a further £5m if **Ricochet** meets performance targets.

**Supernanny** is now in its second season on the US

network **ABC** and **Shed** said the acquisition provided opportunities to make inroads into the US.

Powell received £18.75m for his 75% stake in **Ricochet** while **Southgate** landed £6.25m for a 25% stake. The windfalls were partly in **Shed** shares.

## Staff to benefit in soft option

**WORKERS** at soft drinks maker **Britvic** will pick up free shares worth £750 each in the company's £500 million stock market flotation, it was announced yesterday.

The group's 3,000 staff will share in a £2.25m windfall in the listing, which will see shares valued at between 210p and 250p each.

That will give the company a market value of between £451-£537m when shares start to trade on December 9.

City bookmakers **IG Index** predict the grey market price, on the first day of unconditional dealings, would be at the top end at 241p to 247p.

## Retain

**Britvic's** brands include Robinson's, Tango, R Whites and J20. It also produces and distributes **Pepsi** and **7UP** in the UK.

**Britvic's** joint owners, **InterContinental Hotels**, with a 47.5% stake, and **Whitbread** and **Pernod Ricard**, each with a 23.75% share, are selling off 75% of their holdings while **PepsiCo** will retain its 5% holding.

Managing director **Paul Moody** said: "We hope everyone takes up the offer. We hope employees will stay for a very exciting ride."

Senior managers will, in addition, be offered a share incentive scheme.

## FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 12.80 points (0.23%) at 5523.80

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low			
3i Grp.	863	-5	874	875	1470	Centrica	237	-	264	217	1818	Land Secs.	1578	+21	1596	1259	1035
A.B. Food.	843	+5	863	726	1082	Compass Group	202	+1	264	175	7663	Legal&Gen.	114	-	119	102	1036
Alliance & Leic.	902	+2	947	814	2233	Daily Mail	662	+2	764	517	3973	Lib-Int.	1006	+9	1025	875	7549
Alliance Unicom	772	-6	875	715	6022	Diageo	846	+1	862	721	1029	Lloyds Tsb Grp.	481	-	509	418	6395
AMRESAP	389	-	432	299	124	DSE Intl.	153	+1	167	138	1020	Man Grp.	1815	-1	1834	1162	7896
Anglo	1879	+3	1901	1130	4949	Ent'lms	884	+3	889	652	4713	Mark & Sp.	458d	+5	460	319	1039
Antofagasta	1666	+5	1701	1052	3438	Exel	1217	+4	1235	711	1366	Morrison (Wm)	175	+2	225	161	1253
Astrazeneca	2681	+33	2767	1861	1585	Friends Prov.	191	+1	192	148	7733	National Grid	554	+6	561	471	4443
Bardays	609	-4	614	519	1004	GlaxoSmithKline	1442d	-3	907	717	2222	Next	1382d	+2	1681	1288	1254
BAA	635	-9	639	571	3789	GlaxoSmithKline	1442d	-3	907	717	2222	Nthn.Rock	836	+4	841	723	3555
BAE Sys.	344d	-5	349	224	1010	Hanson	910	+3	989	821	1237	O2	1964d	+1	209	114	2100
Bancorp	609	-4	614	519	1004	Hanson	910	+3	989	821	1237	Old Mutual	153	+1	153	115	2782
BHP Bill.	893	-9	916	564	2423	HDBS	884	-1	912	732	3333	PartyGaming	108	+3	176	71	8400
BIC Grp.	609	-4	614	519	1004	Hilton Grp.	344d	+2	356	257	1942	Pearson	652	+2	694	602	1374
BK	661d	+4	683	500	1011	HSBC Hldgs.	941d	+3	949	825	5562	Prudential	530	+6	542	417	7481
BP	771	+1	771	438	1094	Imp. Tobacco Grp.	1702	-12	1722	1351	1271	Reckitt Benck.	1806	+6	1826	1515	1046
BT Airways	308	-2	320	219	6286	Intercon. Hotel	800	+16	800	612	3729	Reed Elsevier	515	+4	553	461	1396
Br.Amer.Tob.	1263	-47	1329	871	1003	ITV	108	-	130	101	2145	Rentokil Intl.	159	-	173	139	7779
BT Group	100	+11	1044	791	1128	Johnson Math.	1278	+5	1289	915	1280	Reckitt Benck.	1806	+6	1826	1515	1046
BT & Wire	1222d	+1	164	107	1015	Kelco Grp.	736	+1	745	539	4018	Rio Tinto	2385	+5	2414	1430	6699
Caishu-Sch.	571	-7	594	459	1016	Kingfisher	221	+1	316	201	5908	Rolls-Royce	385	+2	387	226	6441
Capita Energy	1898	+4	2018	1042	5643							Royal Bank Scot.	1697	+6	1833	1522	3219
Capita Group	400	+1	401	345	2523							RoyalSun All.	114	+5	115	73	7482
Carnival	3245d	+16	3267	2637	2568												

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Source: www.DigitalLook.com

## Tate's outlook gets sweeter

**BRITAIN'S** biggest sugar producer's shares jumped yesterday after the biggest shake-up of European subsidies to the industry in 40 years.

**EU** ministers have agreed to cut support by 36%. The changes will be phased in over four years.

Shares in **Tate & Lyle** rose 7%.

It had warned in June that the original proposals for a 39% cut could slash its European profits by three quarters.

It said the new deal would not be as severe,

while the impact would be partly offset by job losses and factory closures.

Chief executive **Iain Ferguson** said: "This is a significant improvement on the June proposals and gives the sugar industry a more even playing field."

Tate said the original plans would have hit profits by £85million a year by the end of the decade.

But after allowing for cost-cutting, it now expected profits to be hit by £25m in 2010 and £40m in 2011.



# DAILY STAR SATURDAY

## +++SPORTS EXTRA+++

### TXT MANIACS

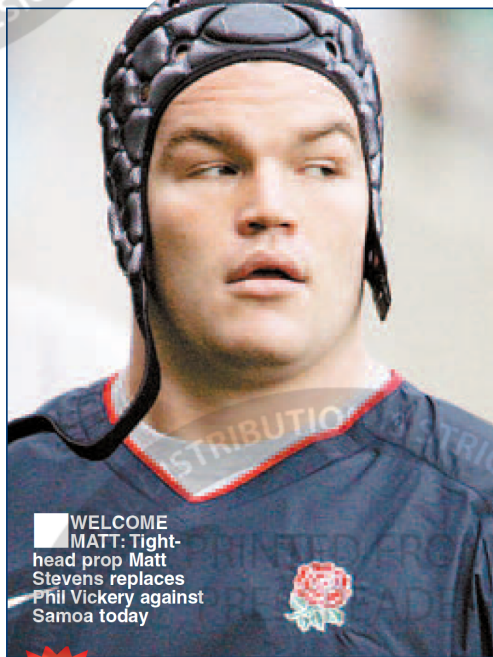
Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

**TEXT DSSPORT TO 61616**

- ☐ Mick McCarthy really does work magic, after his half time team talk he sends them out & they make the crowd disappear! **SMB**
- ☐ Wigan fluke avin laugh preston in ldy cup next season in prem next season in europe ha ha preston down. **Anon**
- ☐ I was sorry 2 e keane leave a man u what a legend i wish it was fergie who left he has run out of ideas and as 4 is number 2 quiroz he has ruined utd with his tactics keane was right what he said. **love god st mawes**
- ☐ I never done my job properly i wouldnt get paid after spendin £80 2 go 2 w brom, i feel ripped off, dont pay em 4-0 shameful 10f d worst shows eva. **MVP**
- ☐ 2 all u scruffy cardiff gimps bet ud rather go down than b humiliated by wales' no 1 club next year. **Jack army! ash**
- ☐ Jackster u muppet u said jacks will never be able to play us cause the only chance u got is in a cup if u get past the first round. **MADS BLUEBIRD**
- ☐ Why do kopites think their opinion matters an they are always right no one cares about

- ☐ you so give it a rest, you hurt my ears an your boring. **EFC JEDI**
- ☐ 2 ian jack \*\*\*\* still div below us and when fat trundle goes u will b on way back down where u belong in the swansea slums. **tom pvm ccfc**
- ☐ Evo's to fat. TOMMO for captain! Greany out! **Bradda SFC**
- ☐ to befast urchin p\*\*\*\* mickey mouse team, mickey mouse city c u at the bridge muppet. **mark doret**
- ☐ Hey Rochdale "we laff so much, it brings us to tears, you've been in this league for 32 years" ha ha Love from Rossendale whites. **Sid the Shaker**
- ☐ why r man utd fans so obsessive, big mouth keane has gone, so what? Sad gits! **BIG G BOLTON**
- ☐ wots up green slime? not chirping about the premier-ship any more! whys that?? we know... your s\*\*\* we laff at sad plymouth. **frosty&rowey@ccfc**
- ☐ ssshh can u hear the green s\*\*\* sing? i cant hear a \*\*\*\*\* thing! good luck royals boys. **matp@slcruw**

# MATT READY TO ROCK ON



**WELCOME**  
MATT: Tight-head prop Matt Stevens replaces Phil Vickery against Samoa today

by DEAN WILSON

**MATT STEVENS is aiming for sweet harmony with front row buddy Andrew Sheridan today, after another heavy jam session.**

Only this time the pair will be jamming with a tough-tackling Samoan front row, rather than together off the pitch. The two music-loving props found some common ground on the Lions tour of New Zealand in June and have formed a firm friendship on the back of that trip. Both Stevens and Sheridan are relatively inexperienced at the highest level, but represent the next generation of England front rowers that will carry through to the next World Cup and beyond. Stevens has replaced Phil Vickery at tight-head prop for the final autumn international and is confident he can hit the right notes in another powerful England display.

### Bond

Stevens said: "Andy and I like some of the same music so I had a jam with him on the Lions tour and he is a good guitarist. "I think music is a huge part of rugby, not just singing songs in the clubhouse after a game but also with a guitar on the team bus."

"Music is a great way for a team to bond and get to know each other and we've got a few guys who like to get the guitar out. "It is something to relax with and help you get away from rugby a little bit. There's nothing better than chilling out and having a bit of a jam session." Stevens is under no illusions just how big a pair of boots he has to fill this afternoon following two huge front-row performances so far this season.

But the Bath prop, who will earn his sixth cap today, is confident his work in training will stand him in good stead. He said: "It is a smooth transition and it is not like I am coming in from nowhere. "We have scrummaged together a lot and hopefully you'll see that."

**ENGLAND:** Lewsey; Cueto, Simpson-Daniel, Tindall, Joyce; Hodgson, Ellis; Sheridan, Thompson, Stevens, Borthwick, Deacon, Sanderson, Moody, Corry (capt). **SAMOA:** Tagicakibau; Faatau, Seveali'i, Fuluano-Sapulu, Tuligali; Vili, So'oloto; Va'a, Schwalger, Johnston, Leo, Pavhi, Lafai, Sitti (capt), Farani.

## WIN tickets to see Spurs v Sunderland

**YOU** already get a real kick out of our fantastic footy pages – now here's another one – the chance to watch a brilliant Barclays Premiership game for free! You soccer-dad Daily Star has teamed up with our mates at Barclays to give away a pair of tickets to a lucky reader every weekend of the season. And what a sizzler we've got up for grabs next week when Tottenham take on Sunderland at White Hart Lane. Spurs are going all out for glory with the minimum of a place in next season's Champions League in their sights. Meanwhile, Sunderland are fighting for their lives against relegation. It is bound to be a cracker and YOU could be there. All you have to do to try to win a pair of tickets for the match is answer this simple question: **What national-ty is Spurs' manager Martin Jol?** Now ring our hotline 0905 072 3963 leaving your answer, your name, address and a daytime telephone number by NOON on Monday. Or you can text PREMIER followed by your answer, name, and details to 88833. Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline and should last no more than 90 seconds. Texts cost £1.50 per message received plus your usual text tariff. Winners will be selected at random from all entries received after midday each Monday on a weekly basis. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

- TODAY**  
FOOTBALL – Wolves v Southampton (SS1, 12noon, KO 12.30pm); Portsmouth v Chelsea (Sky Prem Plus pay, 5pm, KO 5.15pm); Football First (SS1, 8.25pm); Match of the Day (BBC1, 10.30pm); Spanish La Liga (SSX, 8.30pm).  
RUGBY UNION – England v Samoa (SS2, 2pm, KO 2.30pm); Scotland v New Zealand (BBC1, 2.15pm, KO 2.30pm); Wales v Australia (BBC2, 4.45pm, KO 5pm).  
BOXING – Ricky Hutton v Carlos Maussa (Sky Box Office Cardiol, 9pm).
- TOMORROW**  
FOOTBALL – The Championship (ITV, 9.25am); Everton v Newcastle United (SS1, 1pm, KO 1.30pm); West Ham v Man United (SS1, 3.30pm, KO 4pm); Italia Serie A (Bravo, 7pm); Spanish La Liga (SS1, 8pm); Match of the Day 2 (BBC2, 10.30pm).
- MONDAY**  
FOOTBALL – Cardiff City v Ipswich Town (SS1, 7.30pm, KO 7.45pm).
- TUESDAY**  
FOOTBALL – Doncaster Rovers v Aston Villa (SS2, 7.30pm, KO 7.45pm).
- WEDNESDAY**  
FOOTBALL – Wigan Athletic v Newcastle United (SS2, 7pm, KO 7.45pm); Carling Cup highlights (ITV, 11.30pm).  
CRICKET – Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.45am/6am/highlights SS3, 8pm).
- THURSDAY**  
CRICKET – Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.45am/6am/highlights 8.30pm).
- FRIDAY**  
FOOTBALL – Mansfield Town v Grays Athletic (SS1, 7.30pm, KO 7.45pm).  
CRICKET – Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.45am/6am/highlights 7pm).  
BOXING – Carl Froch v Ruben Groenewald (SS1, 10pm).

## FIVE FOR FUN

- 1 Which former Ryder Cup captain, won this year's PGA European Seniors' Tour Order of Merit title?
- 2 Who is the former world Footballer of the Year who has failed in his bid to become Liberia's President?
- 3 Frank Hadden is the new rugby union coach of which country?
- 4 Which Arsenal player is sometimes called The Ice Man?
- 5 French horse racing classics are held at Longchamps and where else?

ANSWERS: See Page 53

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## SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
1. David ....., Great Britain Davis Cup player (9)
  6. .... Ivanisevic, Wimbledon men's singles champion in 2001 (5)
  7. Kornelia ....., swimming champion at the 1976 Olympics (5)
  9. .... County, Scottish League football club (4)
  10. .... City Chiefs, American football team (6)
  12. Luton Town manager (6)
  13. .... Nastase, twice Wimbledon men's singles finalist (4)
  17. .... Rovers, Scottish League club (5)
  18. George ....., motorcycle sidecar world champion in 1977 (14)
  19. .... Pettit, Arsenal, Barcelona, Chelsea and France midfielder (8)
- DOWN**
2. Finn ....., League of Ireland club (5)
  3. Mary ....., women's long jump Olympic champion in 1964 (4)
  4. Winner of the King George VI Chase in 1995 and 1996 (3,3)
  5. Billy ....., Dundee United, Rangers and Scotland striker (5)
  8. Jack ....., former European heavyweight champion (7)
  11. .... Athletic, football club whose home is Boundary Park (6)
  13. Jimmy ....., snooker player nicknamed "The Whirlwind" (5)
  15. Standard ....., Belgian football club (5)
  16. Norton's ....., winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1990 (4)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 53 for yesterday's answers.



## 1-2-X CHECK

(3pm unless stated)

- Barclays Premiership**
- 1 Arsenal v Blackburn
  - 2 Aston Villa v Charlton
  - 3 Man City v Liverpool
  - 4 Portsmouth v Chelsea (5.15)
  - 5 Sunderland v Birmingham
  - 6 Brighton v Derby
  - 7 Burnley v Crewe
  - 8 Coventry v Norwich
  - 9 Leicester v Sheff Utd
  - 10 Luton v Crystal Palace
  - 11 Millwall v Leeds
  - 12 Plymouth v Reading
  - 13 Preston v Watford
  - 14 QPR v Hull
  - 15 Sheff Wed v Stoke
  - 16 Wolves v Southampton (12.30)

- Coca-Cola Championship**
- 16 Bournemouth v Milton Keynes Dons
  - 17 Bradford v Hartlepool
  - 18 Chesterfield v Blackpool
  - 19 Colchester v Gillingham
  - 20 Doncaster v Bristol City
  - 21 Huddersfield v Nottm Forest
  - 22 Port Vale v Southend
  - 23 Scunthorpe v Brentford
  - 24 Swindon v Barnsley
  - 25 Tranmere v Swansea
  - 26 Walsall v Rotherham
  - 27 Yeovil v Oldham

- Coca-Cola League One**
- 28 Bolton v Wrexham
  - 29 Bristol Rovers v Barnet
  - 30 Bury v Cheltenham
  - 31 Carlisle v Wycombe
  - 32 Chester v Peterborough
  - 33 Darlington v Hartlepool
  - 34 Macclesfield v Leyton Orient
  - 35 Mansfield v Stockport
  - 36 Notts County v Torquay
  - 37 Oxford Utd v Grimsby
  - 38 Rochdale v Shrewsbury

- Coca-Cola League Two**
- 39 Accrington Stanley v Southport
  - 40 Aldershot v Forest Green
  - 41 Altrincham v Tamworth
  - 42 Burton Albion v Kidderminster
  - 43 Canvey Island v Cambridge Utd
  - 44 Crawley Town v Gravesend
  - 45 Dag & Red v Woking
  - 46 Hereford v Exeter
  - 47 Morecambe v York
  - 48 Scarborough v Halifax
  - 49 Stevenage v Grays Athletic

- Nationwide Conference**
- 50 Northampton v Lincoln City (1.00)
  - 51 Notts County v Torquay
  - 52 Oxford Utd v Grimsby
  - 53 Rochdale v Shrewsbury
  - 54 Accrington Stanley v Southport
  - 55 Aldershot v Forest Green
  - 56 Altrincham v Tamworth
  - 57 Burton Albion v Kidderminster
  - 58 Canvey Island v Cambridge Utd
  - 59 Crawley Town v Gravesend
  - 60 Dag & Red v Woking
  - 61 Hereford v Exeter
  - 62 Morecambe v York
  - 63 Scarborough v Halifax
  - 64 Stevenage v Grays Athletic

- Tennents Scottish Cup**
- First Round**
- 65 Cowdenbeath v Morton
  - 66 Dumbarton v Forres Mechanics
  - 67 Spartans v Elgin
  - 68 Stirling v Elgin

- Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier League**
- 69 Celtic v Dunfermline
  - 70 Falkirk v Aberdeen
  - 71 Inverness CT v Dundee Utd
  - 72 Livingston v Kilmarnock
  - 73 Motherwell v Hearts

- Bell's Scottish League First Division**
- 74 Clyde v Dundee Utd
  - 75 Dundee v Brechin
  - 76 Queen of South v Ross County
  - 77 St Johnstone v Stranraer
  - 78 St Mirren v Hamilton

- Second Division**
- 79 Forfar v Partick
  - 80 Gretna v Alloa
  - 81 Raith v Peterhead

- Third Division**
- 82 Arbroath v East Stirling
  - 83 Queens Park v East Fife
  - 84 Stenhousemuir v Montrose

- FA Trophy Third Round Qualifying**
- 85 Ashford v Bognor Regis, Barking v Croydon, Basingstoke v Welling, Bath v Barnham Wood v Slarford, Braintree v Hayes, Chipperton v Carlshall, Clitheroe v Woodley Sports, Gray Wanderers v Kingstonian, Darford v AFC Wimbledon, Droydsden v Grantham, Eastbourne Boro v Thurrock, Farnborough v Banbury, Farsley Celtic v Nuneaton, Fleetwood v Altrincham, Harlow v Folkestone Invicta, Hednesford v Moor Green, Heybridge v St Albans, Hinkley U v Histon, Huddnall v Northwich, Hyde v Stalybridge, Kettering v Gainsborough, Lancaster City v Workington, Leigh v RMI v Stafford Rangers, Leighton v Eastleigh, Lewes v Dorchester, Maidenhead U v Bishop's Cleeve, Marine v Blyth Spartans, Redbridge v Harrow Boro, Redditch v Barrow, Salisbury v Newport C, Sittingbourne v Cambridge C, Solihull v Harrogate Tn, Sutton Coldfield Tn v Halesowen, Tonbridge Angels v East Thurrock, Uxbridge v Sutton U, Vauxhall Motors v Mossley, Warrington Town v Kilsby Grove Ath, Weston-S-Mare v Bedford Tn, Weymouth v Havant and W, Worcester v Kendal Tn, Workson v AFC Telford.

- TOMORROW**
- Barclays Premiership**
- Everton v Newcastle (1.30)
  - Fulham v Bolton (2.00)
  - Middlesbrough v West Brom
  - West Ham v Man Utd (4.00)
- Bank of Scotland Premier League**
- Hibernian v Rangers (2.00)



## ITALIAN JOBS FOR CRUISERS

JOHNNY Nelson and Enzo Maccarinelli will be aiming to complete an Italian Job tonight that will finally lead to their long-awaited showdown. Sheffield man Nelson defends his title for the 14th time against the Vincenzo Cantatore in Rome on a bill that also features Maccarinelli.

### Ruled

Nelson said: "You can't buy, borrow or pretend to have experience - that's what I have a lot of."

Frank Warren, who promotes both Nelson and Maccarinelli, added:

by KEVIN FRANCIS

"Johnny has ruled the cruiserweight division for the last six years.

"Enzo is the new kid on the block and is certainly one of the hardest-punching cruiserweights in the division.

"A clash between them is something the fans have been asking to see but, before it happens, they have to win in Italy."

**PREDICTION:** Nelson on points. Maccarinelli in around the sixth.

●E-mail me your news and views to: kevin.francis@dailystar.co.uk

## Ricky says son Campbell can't see fight



STUN OF A PREACHER  
MAN: Hatton spars with Billy "The Preacher" Graham yesterday

# RICKY

## THE UNIFICATION

### IBF CHAMPION RICKY HATTON

V

### WBA CHAMPION CARLOS MAUSSA

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# HATTON BAN ON HIS LAD

RICKY HATTON will tonight ban his boxing-loving son Campbell from watching his light-welterweight showdown with tough Colombian Carlos Maussa.

Five-year-old Campbell WILL be taken by his dad to what will hopefully be a celebration party at Ricky's local - the New Inn - in north Manchester tomorrow - but his televised contest with Maussa will be strictly off-limits for his son.

**IBF world champion Hatton meets WBA belt-holder Maussa in front of a sell-out crowd at the Sheffield Arena tonight in a contest that will be screened live by Sky Box Office.**

But Hatton Jnr. will not be watching with Ricky telling me: "I have given his mum strict instructions that he should not watch - in case anything goes wrong.

"After all, I wouldn't like him to be sitting there watching his dad get flattened. Not that anything like that will happen, of course - but you just cannot leave anything to chance."

Hatton, 27, added: "He knows I box and he knows I am the world champion. But right now I don't want to leave anything open in terms of what could happen if he is watching a fight live that involves me."

### Spark

And Hatton backed up his argument by saying: "The other day he saw me knocked spark out on a computer game in which I figure and I could see his bottom lip begin to tremble.

"If that was his reaction to something like a computer game, imagine what it would be like if he saw me go down in a live fight.

"He won't be watching. But, like the Kostya Tszyu fight, he can watch it all he likes once the fight is over.

"I know he loves boxing but maybe he

by KEVIN FRANCIS

should move into the area of football and play for Manchester City - the greatest team in the world."

Although shielding Campbell from possible fight-watching distress, Hatton has no doubts that he will emerge victorious tonight and extend his unblemished professional record to 40 straight wins.

He said: "I haven't come this far along the path to screw it all up now. I know Carlos will be a tough opponent because I have seen him up at close quarters and realise just how tricky he can be."

### Shock

Hatton was at ringside in June when Maussa relieved Vivian Harris of the WBA title with a shock seventh-round knockout.

And Hatton added: "There is no way I will underestimate him. I saw at close hand how awkward a customer he can be when I watched that fight with Harris.

"He's very tall and a very tenacious fighter. I hear he believes that his stamina will be a major thing in his favour against me but I would dispute that.

**"Anyone who has followed me knows that stamina is one of my main things. So, if his main ace card is stamina, I know who will win on that count."**

"I am a bit of a boxing historian and love it over in the States when you see massive photos of fighters on buildings like the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

"Places like that are where I want to be fighting and I think it may soon be time for my ugly mug to be seen grinning down at passers-by from such places."

But America will only beckon if Hatton can safely overcome Maussa tonight.

**PREDICTION:** Maussa represents a very real threat but I can't see Hatton slipping up. I take him to win in around the sixth round.



# GIANT CROSSWORD

## WIN £25

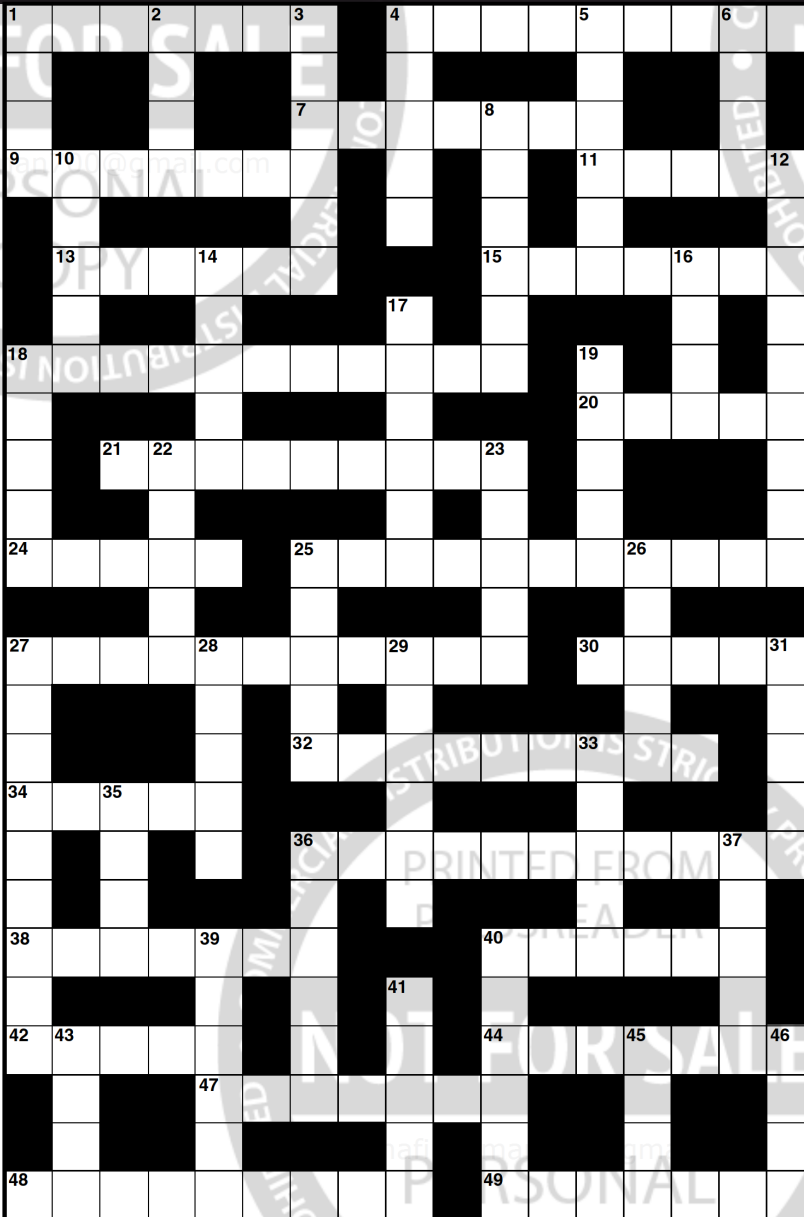
SEND your answers, name and address to: Giant Soccerword, Daily Star Sports Desk, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN. Entries by first post Friday. First correct one drawn will receive £25. Last week's winner was Stephen Smithard, of Normanton, West Yorkshire.

### ACROSS

- Paul ....., forward capped once by England in 1982, whose clubs included QPR and WHU (7)
- Defender who won an FA Cup winners medal with Chelsea in 1970, and later managed Bournemouth and Southend (5,4)
- Keith ....., former York City forward who won an FA Cup winners medal with Coventry City in 1987 (7)
- John ....., 36 across and Newport County midfielder capped twice by Wales in 1973 (7)
- Lillian ....., Sheffield United's former Leicester City forward (5)
- Chelsea and Holland forward (6)
- European Cup Winners Cup winners in 1994 (7)
- Midfielder who won an FA Cup winners medal with Sunderland in 1973 and managed clubs including Chelsea and Aberdeen (11)
- Gary ....., midfielder also with 36 across and Notts County, who played for Sunderland in the 1992 FA Cup Final (5)
- Wycombe ....., club promoted to the Football League in 1993 (9)
- Ivan ....., ex-Southampton defender, manager of Dundee United's 1994 Scottish Cup winning team (5)
- ..... Athletic, Scottish Cup winners in 1961 and 1968 (11)
- Sheffield Wednesday, Leeds and Rangers defender capped once by England in 1988 (3,8)
- Rob ....., Oldham defender whose previous clubs include Fulham and Rotherham United (5)
- Radostin ....., Charlton Athletic and Bulgaria defender (9)
- ..... Griffiths, Wales International who managed Wrexham and Crewe Alexandra (5)
- FA Cup finalists for the only time in 1909 (7,4)
- Len ....., Sunderland and England under-23 full-back who managed the club's 1985 Milk Cup final team (7)
- Cliff ....., pre-war England forward who scored 150 League goals for 15 across (6)
- Southampton and Eire defender (5)
- FA Cup finalists in 1984 (7)
- Jimmy ....., midfielder who made 314 League appearances 1968-81 mainly for 44 across, Hereford and Shrewsbury Town (7)
- League of Ireland champions in 1989 and 1997 (5,4)
- ..... Carvalhal, Chelsea and Portugal defender (7)

### DOWN

- Ashton ....., home of 36 across (4)
- ..... Dublin, Coventry City's former England International (4)
- Martin ....., Sweden striker who joined Blackburn Rovers from Roma in 1997 (6)
- Adam ....., Norwich City's former Peterborough United defender (5)
- Mark ....., England under-21 defender who made 262 League appearances 1978-90, mainly for Birmingham and Southampton (6)
- Italian club who David Platt joined from Aston Villa in 1991 (4)
- ..... Kendall, Everton midfielder who managed the club's 1985 and 1987 League Championship team (6)
- ..... Melchior, Birmingham City and Holland defender (5)
- Manchester United and



- France defender (9)
- Sunderland and Eire defender (5)
- Olympique Gymnaste de ..... French Cup winners in 1997 (4)
- Leicester City manager (6)
- ..... Newport County, Rotherham United, Notts County and Southport winger capped three times by Wales 1965-87 (5)
- Goalkeeper capped 43 times by Scotland 1985-98, whose clubs included Oldham Athletic and Rangers (5)
- England defender who captained 15 across and managed 21 across (5)
- Jon ....., Sunderland's former Blackburn and England under-21 striker (5)
- and 33 down. Striker whose other clubs included Derby County and WHU who scored 148 League goals for Charlton 1973-85 (5,5)
- Gary ....., Chelsea and Crystal Palace defender who made 356 League appearances 1972-86 (5)
- Chesterfield manager, former England centre back (9)
- ..... Solvred, Norway midfielder who joined Coventry from Rosenborg in 1997 (5)
- Kevin ....., Swansea City and Trinidad defender, whose previous clubs include Leyton Orient and Lincoln (6)
- ..... Lawton, England centre forward who managed Notts County 1957-58 (5)
- See 25 down
- South Africa defender who joined Charlton Athletic from Bolton Wanderers in 2000 (4)
- Brendan ....., defender who joined WBA from Cambridge United in 1978 (6)
- Claran ....., Grimsby Town and Northern Ireland midfielder (5)
- Stuart ....., England winger previously with Middlesbrough who won a Premiership winners medal with Blackburn Rovers (6)
- Newcastle United midfielder capped once by England whilst with Leeds United in 2002 (6)
- ..... Keller, USA goalkeeper whose clubs have included Leicester City and Spurs (5)
- Newcastle United and Turkey midfielder (4)
- Ruling body of world football (1,1,1,1) (initials)
- Salif ....., Portsmouth and Senegal midfielder (4)

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1 Servette, 5 McKellar, 8 Lea, 9 Millwall, 10 Houghton, 11 Summerbee, 14 Lucas, 16 Stair, 20 Wolverhampton, 21 Ramon, 23 Tennant, 24 Toldo, 25 Heath, 26 Nowland, 29 Lambert, 31 Lille, 32 Reece, 33 Chelsea, 35 Steed, 37 Carl Muggleton, 38 Etuhu, 41 Beech, 43 Joe Mercer, 46 Andre Flo, 47 Dalglish, 48 Reg, 49 Prentice, 50 Eastwood.

**DOWN:** 2 Ehiogu, 3 Elwiss, 4 Eilam, 5 Maher, 6 Eagles, 7 Aloisi, 12 Meredith, 13 Brompton, 14 Liverpool, 15 Ago, 17 Thorn, 18 Roget, 19 Charlie George, 22 Neale, 27 Wells, 28 David Nish, 30 Tranmere, 31 Le Tallec, 33 Curle, 34 Leach, 36 Thome, 39 Turner, 40 Ulpest, 41 Bright, 42 Crespo, 44 Moore, 45 Rudge.

# FOOTBALL TRIVIA

Compiled by ALEX MURPHY



**OUT OF AFRICA:**  
Where were Premiership players George Boateng (left) and Lomana Lualua born?



### ON THIS DAY

On November 26 in ...  
1 ... 1993, which ex-England centre-half was sacked as Sunderland manager?  
2 ... 1995, who won Scotland's Coca-Cola Cup with a 2-0 victory over Dundee at Hampden?  
3 ... 1986, which Italian team won the World Club Championship, beating River Plate of Argentina 1-0 in Tokyo?  
4 ... 1997, which English team were knocked out of the Champions League at the group stage with a 1-0 defeat at Barcelona?  
5 ... 2004, which ex-Liverpool boss became Wales assistant manager?

### GIVE US AN I

All these begin with I  
1 Hosted the 1990 World Cup.  
2 Lincoln City's nickname.  
3 Man United defender won 56 Ireland caps from 1991-2000.  
4 Midfielder won 53 England caps from 1993-2000.  
5 Play at the Caledonian Stadium.

### ENGLAND'S BEST

Name the Players' Player of the Year  
1 2000, Man United and Ireland midfielder  
2 2001, Man United and England striker  
3 2002, Man United and Holland striker  
4 2003 and 2004, Arsenal and France striker  
5 2005, Chelsea and England defender

### INTERNAT'L STALWARTS

For which countries did these players make over 100 appearances?  
1 Eric Wynalda  
2 Grzegorz Lato  
3 Jurgen Kohler  
4 Michael Laudrup  
5 Soon-ho Choi

### WORLD ALSO RANS

Which countries missed out on a place in the 2006 World after losing play-offs to these teams?  
1 Australia  
2 Czech Republic  
3 Spain  
4 Switzerland  
5 Trinidad and Tobago

### KINGS OF THE CONTINENT

1 Name the four teams who have won the European Cup, UEFA Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup.

2 Who are the only British team to have won three UEFA Cups?  
3 Who were the last British team to win back-to-back European Cups?  
4 Who were the last side of any nationality to win back-to-back European Cups?  
5 Who were the only British team to win two Cup-Winners' Cups?

### OUT OF AFRICA

In which countries were these Premiership stars born?  
1 Celestine Babayaro (Newcastle)  
2 George Boateng (Middlesbrough)  
3 Lomana Lualua (Portsmouth)  
4 Nouredine Naybet (Tottenham)  
5 Robert Earnshaw (West Brom)

### BACKROOM BOYS

At which Premiership clubs would you find these coaches on the staff?  
1 Alan Irvine  
2 Derek Fazackerley  
3 Myrlyn Day  
4 Pako Ayestaran  
5 Steve Clarke

### GOLDEN GOALIES

Who was first-choice keeper when these teams won the League?  
1 1965, Liverpool - Ray Clemence or Tommy Lawrence.  
2 1967, Man United - Alex Stepney or Harry Gregg.  
3 1968, Man City - Joe Corrigan or Ken Mulhearn.  
4 1969, Leeds - David Harvey or Gary Sprake.  
5 1970, Everton - Andy Rankin or Gordon West.

### FIRST WINNERS

Who were the first teams to win these competitions?  
1 African Nations Cup, 1957 - Egypt, Ethiopia or Ghana.  
2 FIFA Confederations Cup, 1992 - Argentina, Brazil or Denmark.  
3 Olympics, 1896 - Canada, Denmark or Great Britain.  
4 South American Championship, 1916 - Argentina, Brazil or Uruguay.  
5 World Club Championship, 1960 - Penarol, Real Madrid or Santos.

## ANSWERS

- OUT OF AFRICA:**  
1 Nigeria  
2 Ghana  
3 Cameroon  
4 Egypt  
5 Senegal
- ON THIS DAY:**  
1 ... 1993, which ex-England centre-half was sacked as Sunderland manager? **1** Steve Bruce  
2 ... 1995, who won Scotland's Coca-Cola Cup with a 2-0 victory over Dundee at Hampden? **2** Andy Roxburgh  
3 ... 1986, which Italian team won the World Club Championship, beating River Plate of Argentina 1-0 in Tokyo? **3** Juventus  
4 ... 1997, which English team were knocked out of the Champions League at the group stage with a 1-0 defeat at Barcelona? **4** Tottenham  
5 ... 2004, which ex-Liverpool boss became Wales assistant manager? **5** Ian Rush
- GIVE US AN I:**  
1 Hosted the 1990 World Cup. **1** Italy  
2 Lincoln City's nickname. **2** The Imps  
3 Man United defender won 56 Ireland caps from 1991-2000. **3** Ian Wright  
4 Midfielder won 53 England caps from 1993-2000. **4** Ian Wright  
5 Play at the Caledonian Stadium. **5** The Imps
- ENGLAND'S BEST:**  
1 2000, Man United and Ireland midfielder **1** Michael Owen  
2 2001, Man United and England striker **2** Alan Shearer  
3 2002, Man United and Holland striker **3** Ruud van Nistelrooy  
4 2003 and 2004, Arsenal and France striker **4** Thierry Henry  
5 2005, Chelsea and England defender **5** John Terry
- INTERNAT'L STALWARTS:**  
1 Eric Wynalda **1** Netherlands  
2 Grzegorz Lato **2** Poland  
3 Jurgen Kohler **3** Germany  
4 Michael Laudrup **4** Denmark  
5 Soon-ho Choi **5** South Korea
- WORLD ALSO RANS:**  
1 Australia **1** Australia  
2 Czech Republic **2** Czech Republic  
3 Spain **3** Spain  
4 Switzerland **4** Switzerland  
5 Trinidad and Tobago **5** Trinidad and Tobago
- KINGS OF THE CONTINENT:**  
1 Name the four teams who have won the European Cup, UEFA Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup. **1** Real Madrid, Liverpool, Ajax, Bayern Munich



# Scully's Kiwi hope

PAUL SCULTHORPE will be rooting for New Zealand in tonight's Tri-Nations final – and thinks Stacey Jones can help them beat Australia in a series for the first time since 1959.

Sculthorpe, robbed of the honour of leading Great Britain in the Tri-Nations by major knee surgery, reckons the Kiwis have a real chance of beating the Kangaroos at Elland Road.

The St Helens skipper said: "The Kiwis always raise their game against Australia and they've definitely got a chance. Past form in this series will go out the window. "It will be an emotional

■ by MARTIN RICHARDS

occasion for New Zealand because they've made it into a major final and most of the neutrals in the crowd will want them to win. It will be a great contest to watch – and there could be fireworks."

Scrum-half Jones joined his Kiwi team-mates in the UK yesterday after attending the birth of his third child in Auckland.

Sculthorpe added: "They had to do it because the one area where the Kiwis don't have any real depth is scrum-half. Stacey is a world-class player and something of a talisman for the Kiwis and the

adrenaline of a game like this will cancel out the jet lag."

Sculthorpe also appealed for Super League administrators to lighten the load on Lions players after their poor Tri-Nations displays.

## Protect

He said: "We don't have the depth of Australia and the Kiwis are looking a lot stronger now so we must protect our players and ensure we can put our best squad out."

"The Leeds players in the Great Britain side this year for instance have played around 40 matches and most of the squad were involved

in the Grand Final or the play-offs."

"Danny McGuire struggled all year with injuries, which was probably a consequence of how many games he played the previous season. In the end he had an operation and missed the series. He would have been a key player."

"The Aussies play far fewer games and most of the Kiwis are with NRL sides and they feel the benefit – but I don't think there's much between the three countries."

■ Scully was promoting the Boots, Balls 'N' Bellringers DVD, which is released by Universal Pictures and on general release now at £19.99.



SCULTHORPE: Support

# Vaughan's on move

■ from RODNEY WHITE in Lahore

ENGLAND captain Michael Vaughan looks set to move up to open the batting with Marcus Trescothick against Pakistan in the Third Test on Tuesday.

Regular opener Andrew Strauss has returned home for the birth of his first child and all-rounder Paul Collingwood looks likely to replace him, with coach Duncan Fletcher unlikely to risk uncapped Alastair Cook in such a pressure match.

Fletcher said: "We still have to make a final decision. I can't say exactly at this stage what the balance will be."

"We have options – one of them is Michael going up, another is Bell and another is Cook."

England need to win in Lahore to square the series after losing in Multan and drawing in Faisalabad.



## Do we really 'love thy neighbour'?

By Andy Martin

HOW much do we care for those around us at work? Not much, if latest statistics are anything to go by: it seems the Great British workforce aren't that great when it comes to looking out for each other. We've become experts at ignoring dangers like split cables or grease and matters

of stepping over hazardous cables. "Leave it for someone else" seems to have become the motto that we each live our working life by in the 21st century. But isn't that sad? I wonder, would we still consider it a pain to wipe up a little spilt coffee if we'd once seen a friend slip and break their leg?

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**SERIOUSLY football**

## Carrick backs Jol's home-grown spine

# WE CAN SPUR ON ENGLAND

**TOTTENHAM ace Michael Carrick last night roared: "We're the pride of England."**

Carrick said English football only has to look in one place to see the best crop of homegrown talent – and that's White Hart Lane.

The Geordie midfielder was one of EIGHT Spurs stars on England duty this month – more than any other club.

Amazingly, the Londoners would have had an astounding 10 players representing the seniors and U21s were it not for injuries to Dean Marney and Wayne Routledge. Sven Goran Eriksson called up Carrick, Paul Robinson, Ledley King, Jermain Defoe and Jermaine Jenas to face Argentina – while Michael Dawson, Tom Huddlestone and Aaron Lennon got the call for the U21s tie with France.

■ **BY ALSTAIR GRANT**

### Squad

Carrick says statistics do not lie and, when asked if he felt Spurs had the strongest English contingent in the Premiership, he was confident.

**He said: "Yes, I think so. There are a lot of lads involved in the full squad and U21s and that's valuable experience."**

"It's a great achievement for Spurs and, as you can only improve playing for your country, that's good for the club."

"Now the club is hoping the potential the young players have shown will be to their benefit."

Carrick, 24, will line up at second-placed Wigan at the JJB Stadium today and believes Tottenham's young guns now face their judgement day.

Spurs have often threatened much but delivered little in recent years – and former West Ham man Carrick says it's about time that changed.

He said: "Last season was a big turnaround. The feeling was we were moving forwards and giving it a go."

"But you can't say that forever so our job is to grow up, produce as a team and

live for the present. The next couple of years will decide whether we're remembered for being a top team or a team with promise that didn't produce.

"I've heard a lot of that about Spurs so we're doing our best and we believe we can be a top team."

"We've got to step up to the plate and produce – and that's when we'll be judged."

Spurs centre-back King has edged Carrick out of the England team by starring in his defensive midfield role – so Carrick is desperate to impress before the World Cup.

### Chance

"With England it's about getting your chance and taking it," he said. "Ledley has done that in a big way."

**Michael Carrick was speaking at the Barclays Spaces For Sports launch of the new White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre.**

**A £600,000 cash injection from Barclays and the Football Foundation has provided the centre, which is supported by Spurs, with a new astro-turf training pitch, four floodlit tennis courts and coaching equipment.**

**For more information go to [www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports](http://www.barclays.co.uk/spacesforsports)**



KICK IT: Carrick gets the ball rolling

Picture: LAWRENCE LUSTIG

# CITY KIDS ARE OK FOR STU



HOMEOWN: Onuoha

STUART PEARCE wants Manchester City's kids to copy United's Beckham generation and stop him spending his £21m Shaun Wright-Phillips windfall.

Pearce could name SIX homegrown youngsters in his starting line-up for the clash against Liverpool at Eastlands today.

Joey Barton, Stephen Jordan, Nedum Onuoha, Stephen Ireland, Lee Croft and Bradley Wright-Phillips have all been handed the chance to stake a claim to a regular spot in Pearce's line-up this term.

And the City boss can see the same "Band of Brothers" mentality that drove United's golden crop of David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and the Nevilles to Champions League

■ **by MARK OGDEN**

glory at Old Trafford. Pearce said: "The number of kids we have coming through now is similar to what they had at United at few years ago."

### Building

"Fergie was building a side when his youngsters came through and he didn't have that big list of trophies behind him."

"This crop have a similar spirit to the United lads in that they are a real group together."

"But if you play with someone as a 13 or 14-year-old and come through that into the first-team, I'm sure it forms a bond."

City go into today's clash ahead of Liverpool and Pearce's

refusal to splash the cash they got from Chelsea for Wright-Phillips appears to have paid off.

And he has told his young guns that he is prepared to keep the money locked away if they continue to prove they can handle life in the first team.

Pearce said: "We have the finance to buy players with the Wright-Phillips money but if I had the choice of bringing a kid through from the Academy or spending £6m on a player of a similar ability, then I would rather bring the kid through."

"I'm not afraid to put the youngsters in and the supporters are willing to give them a chance."

"I just see it as a great opportunity for them."

## GONE FISHIN' with RICHARD LEE



PROFESIONAL golfer Gary Hagues switched his clubs for a carp rod and banked the world's biggest-ever mirror weighing a colossal 83lb 8oz.

In a classic tale of man against beast, the Derbyshire-based angler took to a boat to play the fish and spent 10 minutes being towed around the lake.

The keen carper landed the specimen on a week-long trip to France's Rainbow Lakes.

## Daring rod raiders net huge catch

ANGLERS have been urged keep a lookout for stolen fishing gear, after one of the most daring tackle raids ever staged.

More than £100,000 worth of rods and reels from leading manufacturers were swiped when burglars smashed through the wall of Cascades Leisure Centre, in Gravesend, during the Tacklemania touring show.

The gang took the most valuable tackle from each of the exhibitor's stalls in total darkness, loaded it into a transit van and made their escape across a field. Despite on-site security the entire raid went undetected.

"This was a well-planned job – all the best tackle was cherry-picked from all 15 exhibitors," said show organiser Greg Wimbourne. Police are appealing for information from anyone in the area that night and anglers can help by keeping an eye out for cheap specialist gear flooding the market.

### THE QUALITY OF MERSEY

A SURVEY has revealed salmon to be present in the Mersey catchment for the first time in 200 years.

The study by the Environment Agency discovered three salmon parr in the River Goyt.

The Goyt is a tributary of the Mersey that runs through the town of Stockport.

Incredibly, just 20 years ago the river was unable to support any life.

### Record

THE River Ribble barbel record has been blitted by a 15lb 8oz fish.

Taken by Preston's Paul Billington, it eclipses the previous best by nearly one pound and was taken from the middle reaches of the river.

"You can only catch what's in front of you so to get such a big fish from my local river is incredible," said Paul.

The barbel was fooled on a Dynamite Baits boilie, fished on a swollen river carrying three feet of extra water.

## DEAN'S CHUB

FANATICAL fisherman Dean Macey latched on to this cracking 6lb 14oz chub during a session on the River Lea.

The Olympic decathlete took a



break from training to target the in-form prolific big fish water and also added barbel to 11lb 12oz.

Dean's crucial trick was to climb a tree and find a small depression

in the river bed – after that it was down to a simple legered loverbom to do the business.

Dean is currently hosting a show on Discovery Real Time called 'On Coarse with Dean Macey' shown Friday evenings.



Coca-Cola CHAMPIONSHIP

## TEAMTALK

## BRIGHTON v DERBY

BRIGHTON will be without on-loan Paul McShane (ankle). Gary Hart returns from suspension, while Jason Dodd (back) is likely to be fit.

STRIKER Danny Graham will go straight into the Derby squad after joining on a month's loan from Middlesbrough.

LAST SEASON: Brighton 2 Derby 3, Derby 3 Brighton 0  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Brighton DDLDD; Derby LDLLW  
REF: S Tanner (Somerset)

## BURNLEY v CREWE

BURNLEY boss Steve Cotterill may recall midfielders Wade Elliott and Garreth O'Connor, while utility man Graham Branch (ankle) is a major doubt. CREWE defender Stephen Foster is banned, David Vaughan (back) remains doubtful, but Adie Moses is in contention.

LAST SEASON: Crewe 1 Burnley 1, Burnley 3 Crewe 0  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Burnley WWWWL; Crewe DWWLL  
REF: L Probert (Glos)

## COVENTRY v NORWICH

ON-LOAN midfielder Don Hutchison is poised for his Coventry debut. With Stephen Hughes out with an Achilles tendon injury, Hutchison has joined from Millwall until the new year.

MIDFIELDER Carl Robinson is poised to make his Norwich debut, but Leon McKenzie and Jason Shackell (both ankle) will miss out.  
LAST SEASON: No game  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Coventry WLDDL; Norwich LWLWL  
REF: R Styles (Hants)

## LEICESTER v SHEFF UTD

FOXES manager Craig Levein is sweating on the fitness of winger Ryan Smith (hamstring) and striker Mark de Vries (sickness). DEFENDERS Craig Short (calf) and Rob Kozluk (hamstring) could both return to the Sheffield United squad.

Winger Paul Ifil (ankle) remains a slight doubt.  
LAST SEASON: Sheff Utd 2 Leicester 0, Leicester 3 Sheff Utd 2  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Leicester WDDLD; Sheff Utd DWWD  
REF: K Stroud (Dorset)

## LUTON v C PALACE

STEVE HOWARD is hoping to shake off the flu, but his return could be at the expense of Warren Feeney. Rowan Vine, Enoch Shownmi and Dean Morgan are in contention.

EAGLES defender Tony Popovic (calf) is set to make his first League outing of the season. Andrew Johnson (knee) has returned to training but is unlikely to play.  
LAST SEASON: No game  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Luton LLLWL; Crystal Palace WDLWW  
REF: M Messias (S Yorkshire)

## MILLWALL v LEEDS

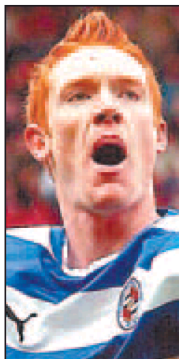
ON-LOAN goalkeeper Colin Doyle and defender Zak Whitbread are expected to make their Millwall debuts, but David Livermore and Jody Morris are suspended.

LEEDS pair Rob Hulse (stomach) and Shaun Derry (back) are both major doubts and skipper Paul Butler is banned.  
LAST SEASON: Millwall 1 Leeds 1, Leeds 1 Millwall 1  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Millwall D L L D W; Leeds DLDWW  
REF: M Fletcher (Worcs)

## PLYMOUTH v READING

PLYMOUTH are set to include loan duo Elliott Ward and Jason Jarrett. Skipper Paul Wotton is suspended, while David Norris (ankle) and Akos Buzsaky (groin) face fitness tests.

READING pair Dave Kitson (head injury) and Brynjar Gunnarsson (groin) are both very doubtful.  
LAST SEASON: Reading 0 Plymouth 0, Plymouth 2 Reading 2  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Plymouth DDLWD; Reading DWWWW  
REF: K Wright (Cams)



KITSON: Doubtful

## PRESTON v WATFORD

PRESTON manager Billy Davies has no new injury problems. Striker David Nugent has shaken off a knee injury and winger Lewis Neal is available again after a knee problem.

WATFORD will be without defender Clarke Carlisle as he is suspended. He is likely to be replaced by Jay DeMerit.  
LAST SEASON: Watford 0 Preston 2, Preston 2 Watford 1  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Preston DWDWW; Watford WWWW  
REF: M Jones (Wales)

## QPR v HULL

PAUL FURLONG is poised to return after a four-match suspension, but defender Dan Shittu serves a one-game ban.

HULL are facing a striker crisis. Chris Brown had his loan spell from Sunderland cut short and Ben Burgess is struggling with a knee injury. Kevin Ellison has joined Ian Ashbee, Steve McPhee, Alton Thelwell and Danny Coles on the injured list.  
LAST SEASON: No game  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: QPR WLLLL; Hull

## SHEFF WED v STOKE

OWLS boss Paul Sturrock could hand debuts to loan signings Daryl Murphy and Peter Gilbert, while strikers David Graham (dead leg) and Lee Peacock (neck) could return.

STOKE defender Marlon Brommes is in contention to face his former club after a four-game ban. Dave Brammer (virus) is doubtful.  
LAST SEASON: No game  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Sheff Wed LWLLD; Stoke LWWWL  
REF: A Hall (W Mids)

## WOLVES v SOUTHAMPTON

WOLVES boss Glenn Hoddle is beset by selection problems. Kenny Miller (hamstring) and Mark Davies (hernia) are out. Rohan Ricketts (ankle) and Carl Cort (knee) are doubtful, while Paul Ince (thigh) and Jackie McNamara (knee) are long-term absentees.

SAINTS will be without captain Nigel Quashie (suspended).  
LAST SEASON: No game  
LAST FIVE MATCHES: Wolverhampton LDWW; Southampton WWDLD  
REF: P Taylor (Herts)

SERIOUSLY football

Souey's big signing finally

## TOON ACE:



HAMSTRUNG: Luque has been sidelined

ALBERT Luque relaunches his Newcastle career at Everton tomorrow telling the Toon Army: "Just watch me go".

Manager Graeme Souness's £10.5m summer buy is the third costliest signing in Newcastle's history, behind team-mates Michael Owen and Alan Shearer. The former Deportivo La Coruna winger has been unable to justify his fee having spent the past two-and-a-half months on the sidelines after tearing a hamstring in only his second game.

Even though he is set to start on the bench at Goodison Park, he's confident Newcastle will soon see the best of him.

Luque said: "I've had some difficult weeks but now I'm raring to go and eager to show the fans what I can do."

## Pressure

"The injury spoiled the beginning of my new experience but I'm fit now and ready to play again."

Newcastle's last Spanish recruit, Marcelino, is widely regarded as the club's worst-ever import but Luque's convinced he'll prove good value.

"I appreciate that the club have invested heavily in my services but that sort of pressure gives me extra motivation," he said.

"And I faced a similar scenario a few years ago when I moved from Real Mallorca to Deportivo for 13 million euros (£9m) and handled it fine."

"The only way I can show that I am worth the price

■ by IAN MURTAGH

paid is out on the pitch and that's exactly what I intend to do."

Souness said he would give Luque "a licence to thrill".

He added: "He will excite our supporters because he loves to dribble and has rockets in his boots."

"Luque's not a winger and he's not an out-and-out forward either. He may start on the left and move to the middle and then move out to the right, it all depends."

"He will have a licence to roam and cause problems for our opposition."

Meanwhile, Souness has given a vote of confidence to defender Jean-Alain Bounsang who is struggling to justify his own £9m price tag.

He said the Frenchman has had family problems in recent weeks, adding: "Jean-Alain has had things going on in his personal life with a life-threatening problem for a person very dear to him."

Coca-Cola LEAGUE 1

## TEAMTALK

## BOURNEMOUTH v MK DONS

CHERRIES boss Sean O'Driscoll has no new injury problems. Striker Steve Fletcher should feature. MK DONS forward Izale McLeod will return, while Pablo Mills is in contention after shaking off a knock.

## BRADFORD v HARTLEPOOL

BANTAMS duo Lewis Emanuel and Ben Muirhead could earn starting berths, while Dean Windass and Danny Cadamarteri will return to the squad. POOLS midfielder Thomas Butler is suspended.

## CHESTERFIELD v BLACKPOOL

SPIREITES boss Roy McFarland has the luxury of a full strength squad to choose from. BLACKPOOL may hand debuts to new loan signings - Jason Wilcox from Leicester and goalkeeper Lewis Gubern from Wolves.

## COLCHESTER v GILLINGHAM

THE US can once again call upon striker Jamie Cureton, but Marino Keith and Stephen Hunt are still sidelined. GILLS defender Chris Hope is expected to be passed fit following a calf injury while Michael Flynn returns from a ban.

## DONCASTER v BRISTOL CITY

ROVERS will make a late decision on whether to hand on-loan keeper Dino Seremet his debut. STRIKER Steve Brooker is the only slight doubt for Bristol City after suffering a knee injury during last weekend's 4-2 defeat to Chesterfield.

## HUDDERSFIELD v NOTTM FOREST

TERRIERS striker Pavel Abbott (knee) is rated 50/50, but Mark Hudson (ban) returns. FOREST midfielder Gary Holt could be in line for a recall but David Friio, Eugene Dadi and David Johnson are expected to miss out.

## PORT VALE v SOUTHEND

VALE are again missing Michael Cummins, George Abbey, Robin Hulbert, Lee Matthews, Hector Sam and Michael Walsh. SOUTHEND midfielder Luke Guttridge (ankle) will be missing for a further fortnight.

## SCUNTHORPE v BRENTFORD

THE Iron's new loan signing Neil MacKenzie could go straight into the starting XI with Richard Hinds and Ian Baraclough suspended. BEES boss Martin Allen is poised to name an unchanged side with Isalah Rankin still out.

## SWINDON v BARNSELEY

ROBINS caretaker-boss Iffy Onuora will make late decisions on midfielder Stefani Miglioranza (dead leg) and defender Andy Gurney (Achilles). BRIAN HOWARD is banned for Barnsley, but Antony Kay returns.

## TRANMERE v SWANSEA

ROVERS will again be without Paul Linwood (knee), while Jason McAteer (knee) remains on the sidelines. SWANSEA are boosted by the return of Alan Tate after a ban and will revert to a full-strength side.

## WALSALL v ROTHERHAM

SADDLERS defender Chris Westwood is likely to miss out with a hamstring injury, but Simon Osborn returns. MILLERS boss Mick Harford welcomes back Deon Burton and Lee Williamson from suspension.

## YEOVIL v OLDHAM

THE Glovers will be missing Lee Johnson (ban), while Liam Fontaine is ruled out by an ankle injury. LATICS defender Will Haining is expected to make his first outing of the season and Guy Branston will also return.







# wooly's world

READ THE VOICE OF SPORT EVERY SATURDAY & MONDAY

## You'd have to be barmy to want the Pompey job

### WHY would anyone want to manage Portsmouth?

It's a job that carries a public health warning and the man replacing sacked Alain Perrin knows one thing. His reign will not last long and he'll be sacked too. The moment Perrin was given the job

everyone knew what would happen – a few dodgy results and out of the Fratton Park revolving door.

The Frenchman didn't stand a chance. Hardly known, no reputation, it was like sending a lamb to the slaughter.

Portsmouth's only hope is for chairman Milan Mandaric to appoint a big-name, strong personality candidate.

Someone with total control of playing matters, team selection, buying and selling, someone allowed to manage totally and completely.

But is that what Mandaric wants? In his seven years at the club history tells us the chairman likes more control than his boardroom chair. The claim is he likes the dug-out, too.

### Sacked

Seven years, seven managers. Alan Ball, sacked. Tony Pulis, sacked. Steve Claridge, sacked. Graham Rix, sacked. Harry Redknapp, resigned. Velimir Zajec, shuffled and then left. Perrin, sacked.

*It's a Premiership club yet all those interested should ask themselves one thing, will I really be the manager?*

Neil Warnock is the favourite and for some reason Sheffield United have not offered him a new contract as the Blades hurtle towards promotion.

Warnock is the sort of strong character Pompey need – but how long before the first clash with Mandaric? Sir Bobby

### IS WOOLY RIGHT?

Text DSWOOLY followed by a space and your comments to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal network rate. Or e-mail me on [brian.woolnough@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:brian.woolnough@dailystar.co.uk)



AU REVOIR: Alain Perrin has a final word with Mandaric

Robson is desperate to return to management, even at 72, and is linked. Don't do it Bobby, wait for a steadier ship. You don't need the aggravation.

George Burley is another on the Pompey short list, yet having escaped the nightmare at Hearts, why would he want this?

Hearts owner Vladimir Romanov clearly likes to

manage, too, and would Burley really find life better under Mandaric?

This week it was announced that Rangers manager Alex McLeish knows his replacement at Ibrox. How sad is that?

Mandaric can point to the fact that without him there would be no Portsmouth.

### Laughing

Yes, he saved them from administration and now he has to save them from becoming a laughing stock.

The only strong personality he had at Fratton Park was Harry Redknapp and he foolishly allowed him to split.

I hope he gets it right this time for Portsmouth are a smashing family club with incredible support.

But, again, I ask, why would anyone want to manage Pompey?

**SACK RACE:**  
Alain Perrin can't believe it as he loses his job at Pompey

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## Ricky's test of nerve

IT'S only four months since Ricky Hatton, one of our bravest sportsmen, enjoyed an epic world lightweight victory over Kostya Tszyu in Manchester.

Since then he has gone into a bitter battle with promoter Frank Warren.

For the first time tonight, since he signed Hatton as an 18-year-old, Warren will not be with him.

Just how much all this has taken out of Hatton will be tested in his unification bout with Colombian Carlos Maussa in Sheffield.

Still unbeaten after 40 fights, Hatton says: "My training has been affected yet my performance won't be. It has made me more determined to unleash the fury I have got in me."

I expect him to stop his opponent late on

but, for new reasons, this is a big test. Hatton will be happy when it's over and then he can go back to beating Warren.

■ Congratulations to the England cricketers for reacting so calmly when a gas cylinder exploded during the drawn test in Pakistan, while Marcus Trescothick was preparing to face the next delivery.

Shame that Shahid Afridi responded with quite outrageous cheating when he scuffed up the wicket while the game was stopped.

## PLONKER OF THE WEEK

FIFA President **SEPP BLATTER**, for his ridiculous claim that national anthems should be abolished before international football matches. Just another nonsense from a man who seems to take great delight in daft but controversial ideas. For a man who never represented his country, how can he understand the pride a sportsman feels to hear the national anthem played before a match?



# BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP

## TEAMTALK

### ARSENAL v BLACKBURN

ARSENAL'S Jens Lehmann and Gilberto are set to return. Alex Song is a doubt but Emmanuel Eboué is OK. BLACKBURN'S Aussies, Lucas Nelli and Brett Emerton, both return after World Cup duty. **LAST SEASON:** Arsenal 3 Blackburn 0 **REFEREE:** C Foy.

### ASTON VILLA v CHARLTON

VILLA manager David O'Leary is set to name an unchanged side. CHARLTON will have US defender Jonathan Spector available after he was ineligible against Manchester United under terms of his loan. **LAST SEASON:** Villa 0 Charlton 0 **REFEREE:** M Clattenburg.

### MANCHESTER CITY v LIVERPOOL

CITY may have to delay Claudio Reyna's comeback from ankle injury. Antoine Sibierski (neck) is a doubt but Joey Barton's back from a ban. LIVERPOOL are without Xabi Alonso (knee) but Luis Garcia (hip) is fit. **LAST SEASON:** City 1 Liverpool 0 **REFEREE:** A Wiley.

### PORTSMOUTH v CHELSEA

POMPEY skipper Dejan Stefanovic (ankle) is willing to delay surgery and play with pain-killers. CHELSEA are without Claude Makelele and Glen Johnson. Arjen Robben is a doubt. **LAST SEASON:** Pompey 0 Chelsea 2 **REFEREE:** P Dowd.

### SUNDERLAND v BIRMINGHAM

SUNDERLAND'S Chris Brown is back from loan at Hull. Julio Arca (foot) is still unfit. BIRMINGHAM keeper Maik Taylor could lose out to Nico Vaessen after a series of mistakes. Mario Melchiot returns. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** U Rennie.

### WIGAN v TOTTENHAM

WIGAN have no fresh injury worries and are likely to name an unchanged line-up. SPURS have a full squad apart from Wayne Routledge who needs another week after long lay-off with foot injury. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** M Riley.

### EVERTON v NEWCASTLE

TOMORROW, 1.30pm  
EVERTON defender Nuno Valente (hamstring) may be back after missing four games. NEWCASTLE strikers Alan Shearer and Michael Owen return to the squad as does Albert Luque after 10 weeks. **LAST SEASON:** Everton 2 Newcastle 0 **REFEREE:** H Webb.

### FULHAM v BOLTON

TOMORROW, 2pm  
FULHAM captain Luis Boa Morie returns from a one-match ban. BOLTON striker Kevin Davies could return after a rib injury. Nicky Hunt is in contention after a nine-match absence with a broken leg. **LAST SEASON:** Fulham 2 Bolton 0 **REFEREE:** G Poll.

### MIDDLESBROUGH v WEST BROM

TOMORROW, 3pm  
BORO goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has a late fitness test after a shoulder injury. Gaizka Mendietta has a calf problem. WEST BROM defender Paul Robinson returns after serving a three-match suspension. **LAST SEASON:** Boro 4 West Brom 0 **REFEREE:** P Walton.

### WEST HAM v MAN UNITED

TOMORROW, 4pm  
WEST HAM keeper Roy Carroll is expected to oust Shaka Hislop after a knee injury. UNITED set to include long-term injured Gary Neville and Louis Saha in their squad after a mid-week run-out in Europe. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** S Bennett.

## SERIOUSLY football

## More to come from Euro champs

# RAF: WE'RE ON THE UP



**KOP THAT:** Liverpool manager Rafael Benítez says the Reds can improve

**RAFAEL BENITEZ has warned his Liverpool players there is still room for dramatic improvement – despite their spectacular Champions League triumph.**

The Kop boss, who takes his team to Manchester City today, claims he is only about two thirds of the way towards his ultimate Anfield ambition.

Benítez said: "Last season, I'd say we were 60 per cent of the way towards the aim I have set. This season I'd say we are maybe 70 per cent of the way towards it – 30 per cent to go. We are better than last season. The team is more solid at keeping clean sheets and we are also more consistent, creating chances and scoring goals."

■ by CHRIS HARPER

### Idea

"We are closer to my idea. But the manager can never be satisfied. We must try to improve every day."

*"I think we did fantastic in the Champions League last season but we needed to improve in the Premiership."*

"This season we are in the last 16 of the Champions League, which is very good and we are much better in the Premiership."

"We can improve in all departments. In defence, we have done well but we can be better."

"In attack we can score more goals."

"But I am happy with the team. You always need to

improve. You must try to find perfection. It is impossible but you must try."

"This is an important game. Why? Because it is against a team who are playing well."

"Also because it comes after a Champions League game."

"It is more difficult for us to prepare."

"The other team have a week to prepare and that makes it easier."

Just a few weeks ago, Liverpool were a team in crisis after successive defeats at the hands of Fulham and Crystal Palace.

### Tempo

But they've hit back with a run of five unbeaten games and five clean sheets but Benítez respects City, who beat the Reds last season with a late goal from Kiki Musampa.

Benítez said: "City play well and with a high tempo. We need to concentrate."

"They are aggressive and the strikers are playing well."

"They have players who can go wide and cross."

"The atmosphere in the stadium is also good for the home team."

*"The statistics in our away matches against them are not the best. We will try to change them."*

## Todd can hold his head High

ANDY TODD has been told he won't need to hide when he faces Arsenal for the first time since his infamous FA Cup semi-final clash with Robin van Persie. Todd was hit by a violent conduct rap after an alleged elbow on the Dutch striker as Rovers slumped to a 3-0 defeat.

■ by MARK OGDEN  
The Blackburn skipper was later cleared following video evidence. And Rovers boss Mark Hughes insists that the 31-year-old has no reason to hide at Highbury. Hughes said: "I was astounded by the coverage of what happened."

Andy was cleared. He had no case to answer so we don't need to go over old ground." Blackburn bristled at Arsenal accusations of bully-boy tactics during the stormy semi-final. Hughes' outfit had the Premiership's worst disciplinary record last year but the Rovers chief

claims his team are now ready to ditch their bad-boy reputation. He added: "When we played Arsenal in the semi-final, we were fighting for our lives. "We are a different side now and won't go to Highbury feeling any apprehension. We will go there to play football."

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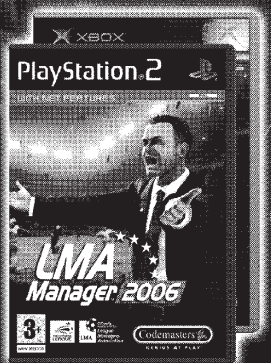
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# SERIOUSLY football

# FRANTIC FERGIE'S FRANCK TALKING

■ by BILL THORNTON

## Demands

## Jinxed

"But we do need to get one or two in here in January – while looking again in the summer."



**IT'S DAYLIGHT**  
**RIBERY:** United  
target Franck Ribery  
in action (right)

# O'LEARY: MILNER ONE IN A MILLION

by DAVE ARMITAGE

## Positive

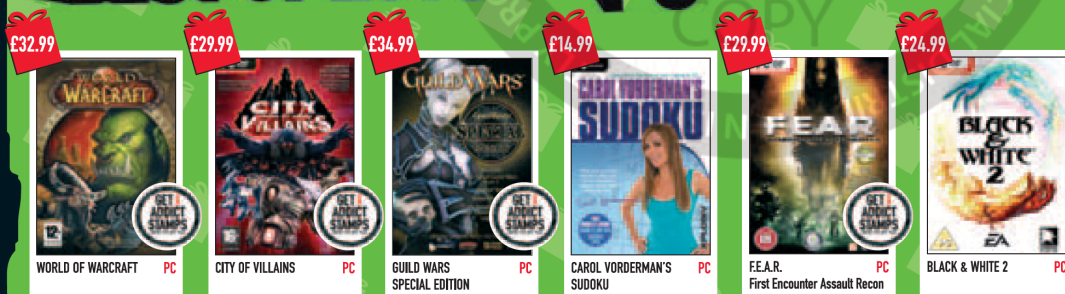
"It's amazing how things soon look differently if you can put a few results together. That has to be our aim and I think we have the players to do it."

## Pals proud of Mark

by STEVE BRENNER

Noble, 18, said: "One of my pals works in the tyre business, one is an electrician and one is a chippie. They

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SERIOUSLY football

Jose: 'I wouldn't swap him for anyone'

# FRANK'S MY PERFECT



**MY PERFECT FOOTBALLER:** Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho with human dynamo Frank Lampard

**JOSE MOURINHO** last night insisted he wouldn't swap record-breaker Frank Lampard for anyone – not even World Player of the Year Ronaldinho.

The Brazilian has pipped the Chelsea star to the Ballon D'Or – the European Footballer of the Year gong – which will be announced next week. But Blues boss Mourinho would snub Barcelona if they tried to swap Ronaldinho for England ace Lampard. He wouldn't be interested either if AC Milan came in and offered Kaka or Andriy Shevchenko.

Lampard, 27, will play his 160th consecutive Premiership game at Portsmouth tonight and eclipse the previous best held by Manchester City's David James.

## Talent

Mourinho said: "I wouldn't swap him for any player. Others have a great talent. Ronaldinho, Kaka and Shevchenko are unbelievable but Frank's my favourite."

"He plays every match – cold, hot, rain, snow, against tough opponents, soft opponents, at home, away with somebody trying to kill him man to man, or against a team playing zonal defence."

"He can play in any system. I want to play. He's a player for every game. He's my perfect player and the player I wouldn't change for anybody. He's the most complete player in the world. "He's strong in every aspect. Tactically he's so good yet he has not lost

■ by DAVID WOODS

his ability to score 20 goals a season, which you don't often get from midfield players.

"Technically he's strong and very intelligent."

"The record is unbelievable. James' record was already unbelievable, but he is a goalkeeper."

"For a midfielder to have no injuries, no suspensions and no really bad games and not be rested or dropped under two different managers – Claudio Ranieri and me – shows everything he is. Not just the player he is but the man he is."

"Records are there to be beaten but it will be very difficult to beat Frank's. Not to get a suspension playing in midfield is so difficult."

## Pain

"At the end of last season he played with a toe injury, but he said he wanted to play so he could go for the record. "So he waited until the end of the season to have an operation. As well as all his talents he has a high pain threshold, which is possibly a trait of English players."

"I don't think he needs a rest. Maybe in February or March we will be in the Champions League quarter-finals or semi-finals and I can give him a breather for one game."

Mourinho said Lampard would not be burned out for the World Cup.

He added: "There is a big gap between the end of the season and the World Cup and Sven Goran Eriksson will have everything under control."

# Blades fight to keep Warnock

**SHEFFIELD UNITED** chief Kevin McCabe held emergency talks with Neil Warnock last night in a desperate bid to keep from the clutches of Portsmouth.

United's plc chairman McCabe summoned Warnock to a meeting in an attempt to stop him walking out of Bramall Lane.

The Blades boss is agonising over his future after Pompey supremo Milan Mandaric earmarked him as the man to replace Alain Perrin, who was sacked on Thursday.

■ by JEREMY CROSS

Mandaric is tempting Warnock with a deal worth almost £1m a year, but McCabe and his board have launched a last-minute bid to keep him by offering him a new deal.

Warnock is out of contract in the summer and Mandaric confirmed last night that he had sought Sheffield United's permission to speak to their manager.

He is the first-choice for Pompey, who face Chelsea today, but Mand-

aric has a shortlist of other candidates in case he is foiled – thought to include Ruud Gullit, Iain Dougie, Alex McLeish and Martin Allen.

Mandaric said: "I have a list of five names, and hopefully that will become shorter in the next few days. I shall approach Sheffield United and a few other clubs will also be contacted."

"I expect an appointment inside the next two weeks, before our game at Tottenham, although it could be before that."

## From Back Page

my holiday or the case I took legal advice to analyse what was behind it, but I never gave too much importance to it.

"I wanted to know how it was perceived from a legal point of view."

"I gave it some thought during the recent international break and I can't see that statement to be vicious or malicious enough about what had already been said. The

intention behind the statement was not there and I hope I am proved right. There was no malice behind it."

"I want to focus on the team and don't want to waste negative energy and waste sleep any more."

## History

"The fact nothing was intended to be malicious means I will let him get away with it. I don't know whether it will happen again. I

haven't changed my mind about the basic problem but having given it more thought have decided not to take it any further."

"It's history. I want to focus on what is important for me and Arsenal."

Chelsea boss Mourinho accepted the olive branch, saying: "I think it is a sensible and intelligent decision."

"He knows my feelings about the situation. I don't want to make it

personal. I want to finish with it and I hope he does the same in relation to us. So I think it is the best thing."

Wenger, whose team have gone eight games unbeaten, warned today's opponents Blackburn that the Gunners are flying again after a stuttering start to the season.

The Frenchman said: "We are approaching our best football. The belief is back and the ambition is there."

# Information Station

## CRICKET

Third Test, Adelaide: Australia v West Indies West Indies 352-7 (Lara 202nc) v Australia

Fourth One Day International, Calcutta: India 188 (Yuvraj Singh 53) v South Africa 189-0 (G C Smith 134nc). South Africa beat India by 10 wickets.

## FOOTBALL

Victory Shield: Scotland Under-16 1 England Under-16 2. England and Wales share Victory Shield.

## GOLF

European Tour Volvo China Open (Shenzhen Golf Club, China) – 2nd rd (GB & Irl unless stated, Par 72): 132 C Pichot (Tha) 67, 135 O Wilson 67, F Delamontagne (Fra) 70, 136 S Yates 68, 137 R Fisher 68, 138 J Handhawa (Ind) 67, M Tunnick 70, 139 S Kapur (Ind) 70, T Pilkadaris (Aus) 71, 140 A Butterfield 72, T Wirachant (Tha) 68, K Ferrie 70, B Ruengkit (Tha) 73.

## RUGBY UNION

### Guinness Premiership

Bath.....12 Leeds.....16 Bath–P: Malone (4). Leeds–T: Stryman. C: Ross. P: Ross (3). Att: 9,957.

Leicester.....35 Lorrain.....3 Leicester–T: Healey, Kay, Chuter, Hollard. C: Goode (3). P: Goode (3).

London Irish.....P: Everett. Att: 16,815.

London Irish–W: D. F. A. Pts

Warrington.....8 7 0 1 196 131 31

Warrington.....8 6 1 1 213 150 28

Leicester.....8 5 2 2 232 153 29

London Irish.....5 0 4 1 179 185 24

Worcester.....5 1 2 154 153 22

Saracens.....4 1 3 191 167 22

Gloucester.....4 1 3 178 154 21

Bristol.....3 0 5 140 169 14

Bath.....2 1 6 153 200 13

Northampton.....2 0 6 135 185 12

Leeds.....2 0 7 146 244 10

Newcastle.....1 6 145 171 10

## SQUASH

Qatar Classic (Doha) – Quarter finals: T. Linco (Fra) bt J White (Sco) 11-6 11-2 9-11 11-9; D Palmer (Aus) bt G Gaultier (Fra) 11-7 8-11 10-11 11-3; J Willstrop (Eng) bt A Gough (Wal) 11-8 11-6 11-1; A Ricketts (Aus) bt S Boswell (Aus) 11-5 11-3 11-1.

Women's quarter finals: V Botwright (Eng) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-7 9-5 9-5 9-0; N David (Mas) bt L Elriani (Eng) 7-9 9-6 10-8 10-9; N Grinham (Aus) bt O A Kaway (Egy) 9-0 6-9 9-1 2-9 9-5; V Atkinson (Ned) bt J Duncalf (Eng) 9-2 9-7.

## TENNIS

LTA Men's & Women's event (Sunderland) – Men's qtr finals: A Beglarovic (Ser) bt Heuberg (Swe) 7-5 6-3; G Elsener (Bel) bt M Lee (GB) 7-6 6-4.

Women's qtr finals: M Ruutel (Est) bt P Sanduska (Fra) 6-2 6-0; K Vankova (Cze) bt R Dillon (Irl) 6-3 6-4; S Coles (GB) bt A Smith (GB) 6-3 6-0; P Suomalainen (Fin) bt J Bone (GB) 6-2 6-1.

## TODAY'S DIARY

### FOOTBALL

Southern League: Aylesbury v Mangotsfield, Evesham v King's Lynn, Gloucester v Chesham, Rugby Tn v Merthyr, Yale v Hitchin.

Ryman–Premier: Billericay v Worthing, Fries v Windsor & Eton, Leyton v Wealdstone, Malden v Chelmsford, Slough v Walton & Hersham.

UniBond–Premier: Ashton Utd v Bradford P A, Burscough v Guseley Tn, Frickley v Radcliffe Borough, Gillingham v Leek Tn, Lincoln Utd v Witkif & Emley, Matlock Tn v Ossett Tn, Prescott Cables v Whitby, Witton Albion v North Ferriby Utd.

### BASKETBALL

BBL: Leicester Riders v Scottish Rocks.

### BOXING

WBA/IBF Light-Weightweight: Ricky Hutton v Carlos Wausa. WBO Cruiserweight Title: Johnny Nelson v Vincenzo Cantatore (Hallam FM Arena, Sheffield).

## CRICKET

Third Test Match–day 2 of 5: Australia v West Indies (Adelaide).

## GOLF

European Tour Volvo China Open (Shenzhen GC).

Nelson Mandela Invitational (Arabella Country Estate, Hermanus).

PGA EuroPro Tour (Algarve, Portugal).

Japan Golf Tour Casio World Open (Kochi Kuroshio CC, Kochi).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Newcastle Vipers v Cardiff Devils, Edinburgh Capitals v Coventry Blaze, Basingstoke Bison v London Racers, Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Guillette Tri-Nations Final

Australia v New Zealand (6.15).....

National Conference–Premier

Division (2pm): East Hull v Hull Dockers, Leigh East v Wigan St

Patricks, Oldham St Annas v Shaw Cross Sharks, Skirlough v Oulton Raiders (2.30), Thornhill v Siddal, Wath

Brow Hornets v Leigh MR, Division One (2pm): Askam v Hunslet Warriors

(2.30), East Leeds v Rochdale Mayfields, Eastmoor v Dragons v

Castleford Lock Lane, Millford Marins v Walney Central, Thatch Heath v Ideal

Isberg, West Bowling v York Acorn, West Hull v Ince Rose Bridge.

RUGBY UNION

Internationals (2.30): England v

Samoa, France v South Africa (6pm),

Ireland v Romania (12.30), Italy v Fiji

(2pm), Scotland v New Zealand, Wales v Australia (5pm).

Guinness Premiership (12.30):

Gloucester v Saracens, Northampton v Worcester.

Powergen National Trophy Sixth

Rd (3pm): Bedford v Esher (2.30),

Bedford v Albion v Harlequins,

Nottingham v Baydon, Pertemps Bees v Otley (2pm), Plymouth Albion v

Cornish Pirates, Redruth v Exeter (2.15).

National League–Two (2.15):

Halifax v Barking, Harrogate v

Stourbridge, Henley v Launceston

Kelvin, Wharfedale v Waterford (2.30).

Three North (2.15): Bradford &

Bingley v Darlington, Cleckheaton v

Hull Jonsies (3pm), Darlington Mowden

Pk v New Brighton, Fylde v Kendal,

Tynedale v Preston Grasshoppers (2pm).

Three South (2.30): Bracknell v

Cinderford (2pm), Dings Crusaders v

Southern, Havant v Rosslyn Park,

Hertford v Reading, Lydney v Old

Patesians (3pm), North Walsham v

Cambridge (3pm).

TENNIS

The Aberdeen Cup (Aberdeen

Exhibition and Conference Centre).

TOMORROW'S

DIARY

FOOTBALL

Southern League: Team Bath v

Exeter City.

BASKETBALL

BBL: Chester Jets v London Towers,

Brighton Bears v Milton Keynes Lions.

CRICKET

Third Test Match–day 3 of 5:

Australia v West Indies (Adelaide).

First Women's One Day

International: India v England

(Faridabad).

GOLF

European Tour Volvo China Open

(Shenzhen GC).

Nelson Mandela Invitational

(Arabella Country Estate, Hermanus).

Japan Golf Tour Casio World Open

(Kochi Kuroshio CC, Kochi).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Edinburgh Capitals v

Coventry Blaze, Sheffield Devils v

Belfast Giants, Cardiff Devils v

Nottingham Panthers.

RUGBY UNION

Guinness Premiership: Bristol v

Stomax, Newcastle v Wasps (2.30).

Powergen National Trophy Sixth

Rd (2pm): London Welsh v Coventry.

TENNIS

The Aberdeen Cup (Aberdeen

Exhibition and Conference Centre).

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Nell, 4 Boris, 7 Meo, 8

Crump, 9 Rayer, 10 Leek, 11

Reason, 14 Cotte, 15 Fish, 18

Halio, 20 Aston, 21 Ton, 22 Nadia,

23 Dandy.

DOWN: 1 Nicol, 2 Laurent, 3 Imps,

4 Border, 5 Ray, 6 Surin, 12 Shilton,

13 Pelota, 14 Cohen, 16 Henry, 17

Sam, 19 Lad.

SIVE FOR FUN ANSWERS

1 Sam Torrance, 2 George Weah, 3

Scotland, 4 Dennis Bergkamp, 5

Chantilly.

# Viduka's glory chase

■ by IAN MURTAGH

MARK VIDUKA spent the summer wondering if he still had a future at Middlesbrough.

Now, he's on the verge of the most exciting period of his life after an eventful November for club and country.

The Aussie fulfilled a lifetime dream when he helped the Socceroos qualify for the World Cup finals with a play-off victory against Uruguay.

The former Leeds star is also dreaming of glory with Boro. The goalless draw against classy Dutch outfit AZ Alkmaar has already guaranteed Steve McClaren's side a place in

the UEFA Cup knockout stages with one Group D fixture still remaining.

With Boro having gone seven and a half hours without conceding a goal in Europe, Viduka reckons they're well-equipped to better last season's run to the last 16.

"I think 2006 could be a very special year for me," he said.

"I have got a World Cup to look forward to and, who knows, we could go all the way in the UEFA Cup with Middlesbrough."

# Wenger to kiss and make up



SERIOUSLY  
football

## GEORGE BEST: 1946-2005:

## Fergie: A true legend

MANCHESTER United boss Sir Alex Ferguson paid his own tribute to George Best and admitted: "He has left us with a million memories, all of them good ones."

Fergie put into words the feeling of all football fans at yesterday's death of the legendary United and Northern Ireland winger.

He said: "At this moment I just think of him as a player. It's those moments we will relish."

"My own particular memory of him is playing against Scotland at Windsor Park. Tommy Gemmell was one of the best full-backs in the world at the time and George gave him the mother and father of all chasings. I will always remember that particular day."

## Craft

"He was such a special player, a phenomenal player and I think I speak for everyone associated with Manchester United when I say he has left us with a million memories, all of them good ones."

The United chief added: "Some people are just born with a craft and leave an indelible mark on people's lives."

"The thing I remember, apart from his talent, was his courage."

"I can see him flying down the wing

by GEORGE SCOTT

riding tackles from people like Ron Harris, Tommy Smith and Norman Hunter.

"They were serious guys - you didn't mess with them - and it was a time when you needed to be struck down by a tomahawk just to get booked, yet he rode all that."

"Every time he went down he got up again and just said 'Give me the ball'. That will stick in my mind forever."

A statement from United read: "George Best was one of the greatest footballers of all time."

"Naturally athletic, tough, confident and blessed with genius, his career was one of the brightest stars of his generation. His gifts were legendary."

"For the goals, the audacious dribbles and all the wonderful memories, Manchester United and its legions of fans worldwide will always be grateful."

"We feel a deep sense of loss but his spirit and his talent will live on forever."

## HE WAS A



## Minute's silence for hero

■ THERE will be a minute's silence before every Premiership and Football League match this weekend following the death of George Best.

A Premiership spokesman said: "The Premier League hopes that everyone involved with football will pay their respects to a man who became a sporting legend."

"He will be remembered for his sublime footballing skills and the special contribution he made to the game."

■ The silence will be especially poignant at Upton Park where Manchester United take on West Ham tomorrow.

Celtic will stage a minute's applause ahead of their game against Dunfermline today.

Earlier this year the Glasgow club did the same to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of their greatest ever manager, Jock Stein.

■ Phil Hughes, Best's agent, said last night he will be buried alongside his mother, Ann, in Belfast next Friday.

Manchester United have announced they have opened a book of condolence at Old Trafford for fans to sign but have yet to announce plans for a permanent memorial.

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Manchester United 1963-74: 466 games, 178 goals. Northern Ireland 1964-78: 37 games, nine goals. First Division championship winner: 1964-65, 66-67. European Cup winner: 1968. Footballer of the Year: 1968. European Footballer of the Year: 1968.



# GENIUS ON THE PITCH AND TOP BLOKE OFF IT

## George gave us thrill a minute

**SIR BOBBY CHARLTON:** "Anyone who witnessed what George could do on the pitch wished they could do the same. He enriched the lives of everyone that saw him play."

**DENIS LAW:** "It's an extremely sad day for the Best family. It was just a matter of time really, it was a matter of when, not if things would not go right."

**DOUG ELLIS:** "He used to spend a lot of time on my boat - he loved driving my boat. It was only years later I found out that he couldn't swim."

**BRYAN ROBSON:** "People use the term 'great player' too flippantly these days. George really was a great player."

**MARK HUGHES:** "The images of him in his last days were very upsetting. I want to remember him in his pomp as the best in the world."

**FRANK STAPLETON:** "He could do absolutely everything and that just about sums up George."

**RAY WILKINS:** "It was a shame he was Northern Irish because it prevented him playing on the world stage."

**PADDY CERRAND:** "He was the most natural footballer I'd ever seen. It is a very rare commodity to be able to lift people off their seats just by touching the ball."

**HARRY GREGG:** "I would defy anyone who really knew George to say a bad word about him. The only person he hurt was himself."

**ALEX STEPNEY:** "He was an absolute genius."

**PAT JENNINGS:** "What people don't realise is that he was a box-to-box player. That is what set him apart from other greats, his work rate and willingness to chase back, to dig in when it was needed."

**KENNY DALGLISH:** "Maybe people criticise him for the way he led his life but, if he had never led his life like that, maybe he wouldn't have been the player he was."

**ALEX McLEISH:** "I played against him when I was at Aberdeen. Bestie came to play at Hibs near the end of his career and it was just an amazing feeling to be on the same pitch as George Best."

**STEVE BRUCE:** "When people in Manchester talk of the great players - and in my era it was Beckenbauer, Paol, Cruyff - then George Best always seems to come into the equation."

**DAVID O'LEARY:** "I had a trial at United and there were thousands of people at the training ground. George would arrive in a yellow E-Type Jag - he was a legend."

**BEST OF BUDDIES:** George Best with big pal Rodney Marsh during their Fulham days



**EXCLUSIVE**  
by **RODNEY MARSH**

I'VE got one last drink to have with my old mate . . . and I hope it's in Belfast.

They'll put a statue up to Bestie one day - and I know where I hope it'll be - across the water in the city of his birth.

I hope it's a fantastic tribute that manages to catch that magical twinkle in the eye of the greatest footballer the world has ever seen. And, if it's looking out from the centre of Belfast, then I'll go and have a pint of Guinness and I'll remember George happy in the knowledge that that's where he would have wanted it.

Many people will have their views on where any lasting tribute should stand, but I KNOW if he could choose he'd have it bang there in the city centre.

And the inscription could quite so easily be just **BEST** - because that's what he was. It says it all. Never has a surname been more fitting. He was known as The Belfast Boy and I know first hand that he was so immensely proud of where he came from.

**Interview: DAVE ARMITAGE**

first hand what a thoroughly top bloke he was. He was a superstar as a person as well as a footballing genius.

You know his favourite song was Vincent by Don Maclean. He loved that song and I can't help thinking it could almost have been written about him. A song about Vincent van Gogh - a brilliant artist and a slightly flawed genius.

A man who could take a blank canvas and weave his magic all over it - that was George.

If ever anything went wrong on our roadshows, which they quite often did, he'd look at me

**"We never saw the best years of Best"**

ARSENE WENGER

with that mischievous grin and refer to the first line of that song, saying 'Starry, starry . . . Marshy' as if to say not to worry. And there's a line in that song which refers to the 'ragged men in ragged clothes' and whenever I hear it I can't help but remember a rainy night in 1994 when the two of us were walking the streets of London in the early hours after a heavy session.

George was an astonishingly generous guy and one of the kindest people I have ever met. There's a lot of people who haven't seen that side of him.

Well, anyway, I was not long back from America and we were embarking on the Best and

Marsh Roadshows, so we were spending an awful lot of time in each other's company. We stayed together in hotels, ate together and went out together.

On one night, we had done a theatre show and we were in a limo going back to Chelsea when Bestie said 'Marshy, do you fancy a nightcap?'

We ended up going to an exclusive little club just off Curzon Street called 'Rags'.

It had a pool table and we played a lot of that. So after a few games of pool and about six bottles of bubbly we stumbled

**"He was a very popular man, loved by every football fan around the world"**

SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON

out and it was pouring with rain. We were looking for a taxi and getting soaked when George

**"I never saw him but I got tired of my father's stories about him"**

JOSE MOURINHO

noticed a little man huddled in a doorway. Bestie put his hand in his pocket and just as he was about to hand a note to this little tramp, I put my hand on his arm and said 'Bestie that's a £50 note!'

He just smiled, gave the guy the note and we carried on walking. That was typical George.

There were so many sides to him that people wouldn't believe but he would only want to be remembered for his football. I can tell you, he thought all the other stuff was pure b\*\*\*\*\*.

All the stuff about the women and the gambling and the drinking . . . that was all b\*\*\*\*\* to him. He told me loads of times. He wanted to be remembered as the greatest player in the world - simple as that.

Off the field he might surprise

a few people because when everyone is quite rightly singing his praises as a footballing genius, few see the private side of him.

He was very bright and was brilliant at crosswords. How many people would have called that one?

He was sensational company and we'd do quizzes together and all that sort of stuff, you'd just never imagine. He was a very, very intelligent man. I mean, the

**"The world of football has lost a great"**

EUSEBIO

stories are right that he passed for grammar school which meant he ended up going to a school which played rugby.

So he only played football in the evenings and at weekends. How good could he have been?

**God bless you George.**

Starry, starry . . .

**"It was a proud moment for me when I wore the same number seven shirt"**

DAVID BECKHAM

His statue should be where his heart was. It was in that city that he grew up and where scout Bob Bishop first clapped eyes on a skinny kid and sent a message back to Manchester United saying 'I think I've found a genius'.

How brave a prediction was that about a slip of a 15-year-old? But he was spot on with that observation. From that point on, George was the innovator - the original article.

Nothing compares with the original. He was brave, fleet-footed, talented with both feet and, oh yeah, he could head and tack-

**"I had many idols and icons I looked up to. George Best was one of them."**

PAUL GASCOIGNE

le as well. He only ever found one opponent that proved just too difficult to beat and that's how we've ended up here.

But I've been happy to have spent an awful lot of time in George's company and have seen



# GEORGE BEST: 1946-2005

# SIR ALEX FERGUSON



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# KISS AND MAKE UP

by NICK PARKINSON

Wenger said yesterday he is dropping his plans to sue Mourinho for calling him a "voyeur".

The Arsenal boss joked that he needed the money for a holiday – but admitted the Chelsea boss had not meant to be "malicious".

Wenger said: "I cannot afford a lawyer at the moment. The price of lawyers in England is discouraging. It's £100,000 just to shake hands. It was

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